Harumi Sato／Hiroshi Kazusa

MANGA CVN 73

USS George Washington

RADM James D. Kelly, USN
Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan

Over the course of my Naval career, I have been honored to live in this beautiful country for nearly eight years and have loved every day of it. I have so many memories from my time here, and Japan will be forever in my heart. One of the most significant memories is the arrival of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON to Yokosuka, Japan. During a time of global instability and unrest, the forward deployment of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON to America's greatest ally and second largest global economic power, Japan, is an incredible signal of partnership and alliance that will reverberate around the world. Bringing with it some of the most modern military capabilities, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON is charged with the defense of Japan and maintaining peace and stability in the Far East. Her highly-trained professional Sailors are United States Ambassadors to Japan as well as future neighbors and best friends to many citizens here. Please enjoy this story about her arrival.

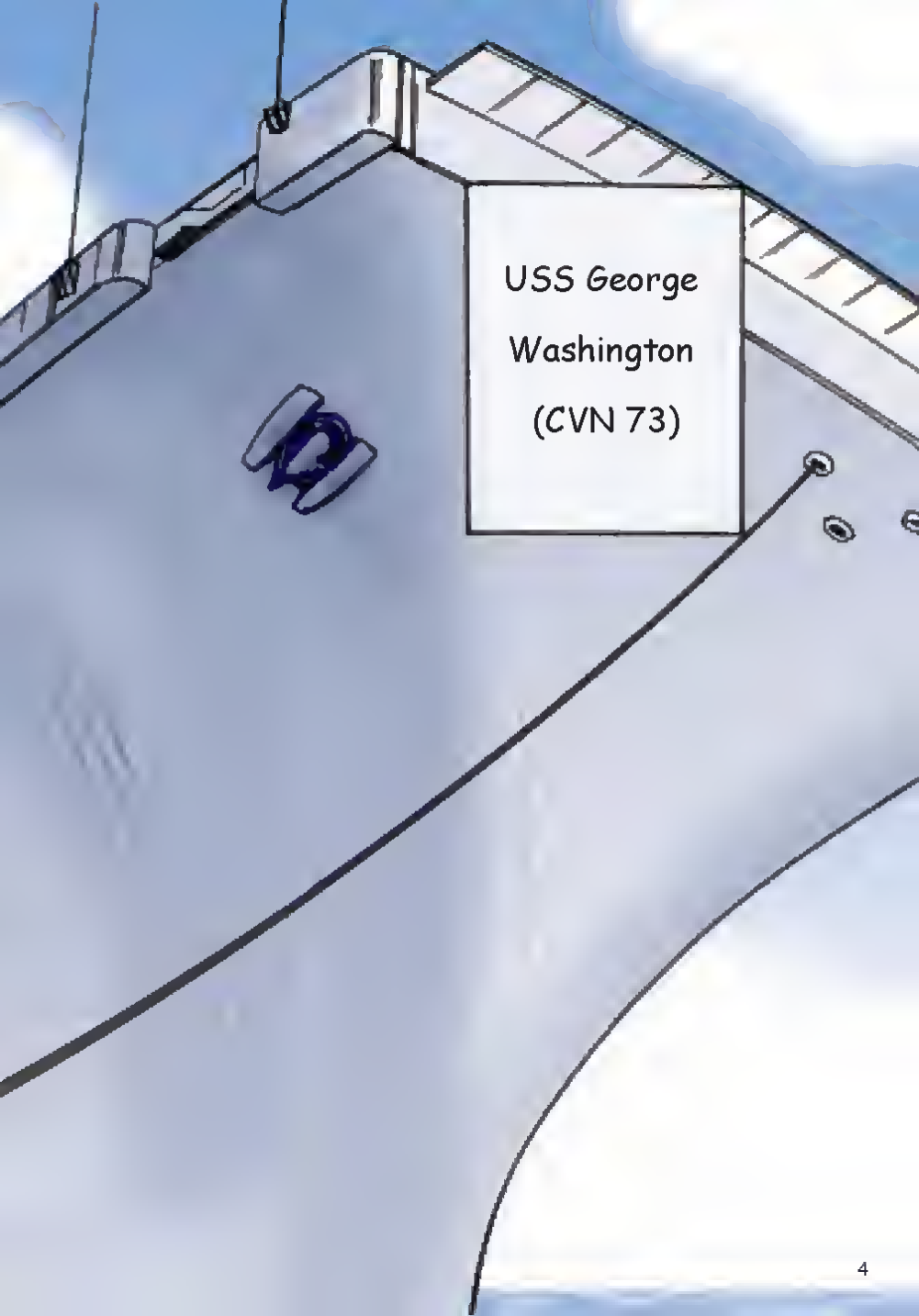
Story&Art Harumi Sato/Hiroshi Kazusa
Publication Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Japan
Public Affairs Office

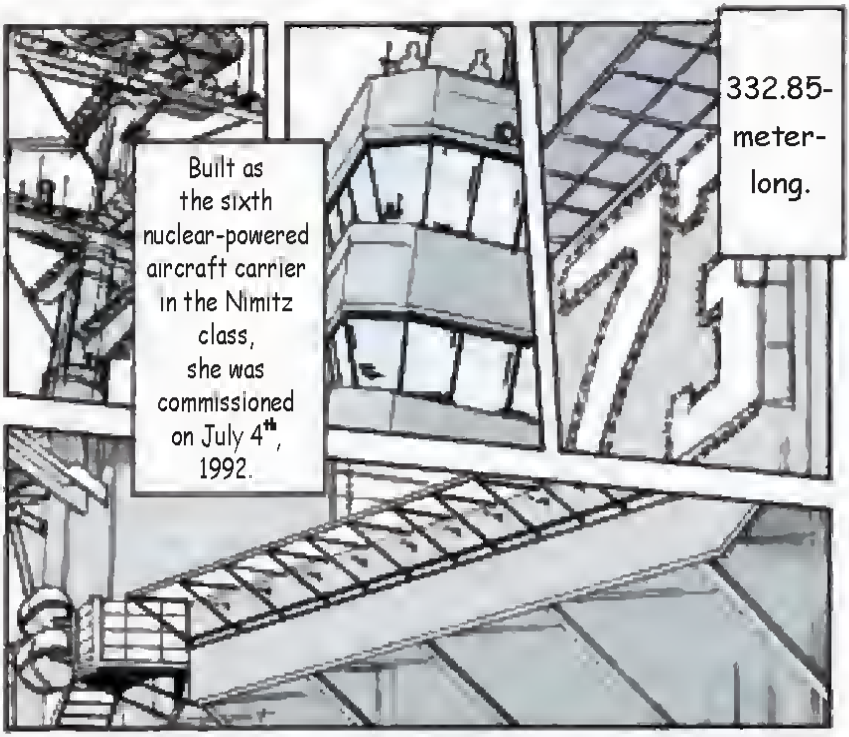
MANGA CVN 73

USS George Washington

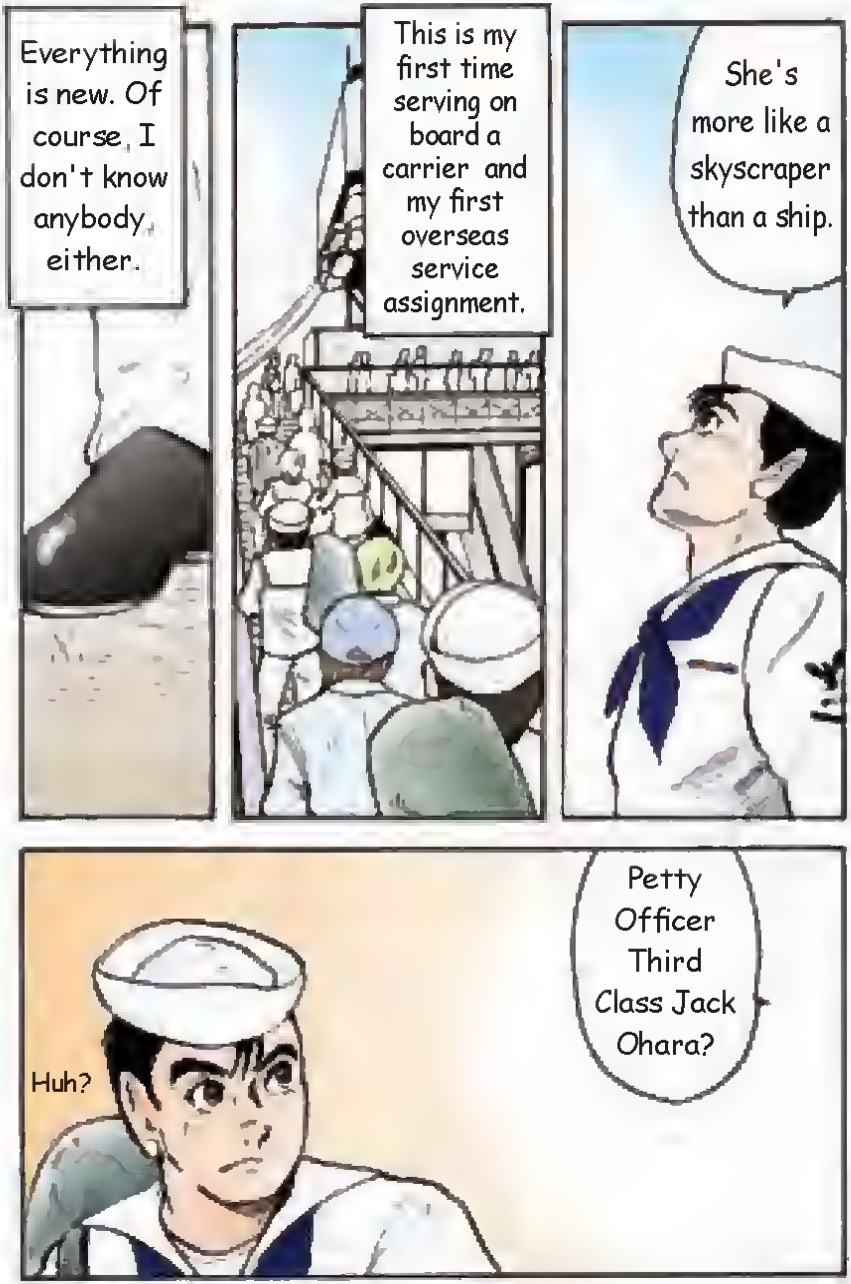
Its sheer size was daunting.

This is the ship I'm getting on?
Love you
Miss you Daddy

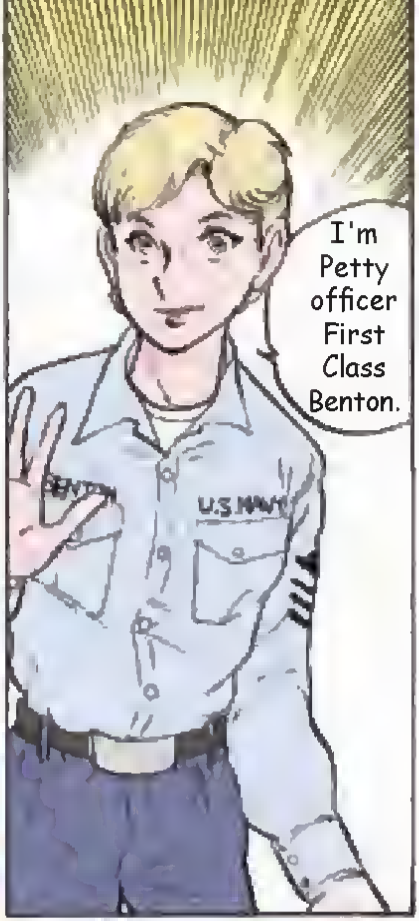

USS George
Washington
(CVN 73)

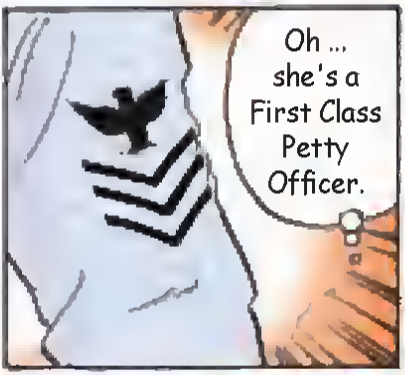

Built as the sixth nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the Nimitz class, she was commissioned on July 4th, 1992.
332.85-meter-long.

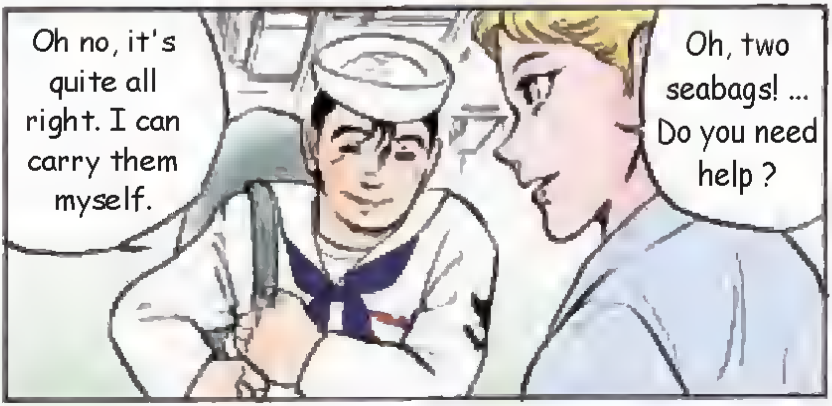
.....
Accommodating over 5,000 crew, she can travel at a high-speed of 30+knots.

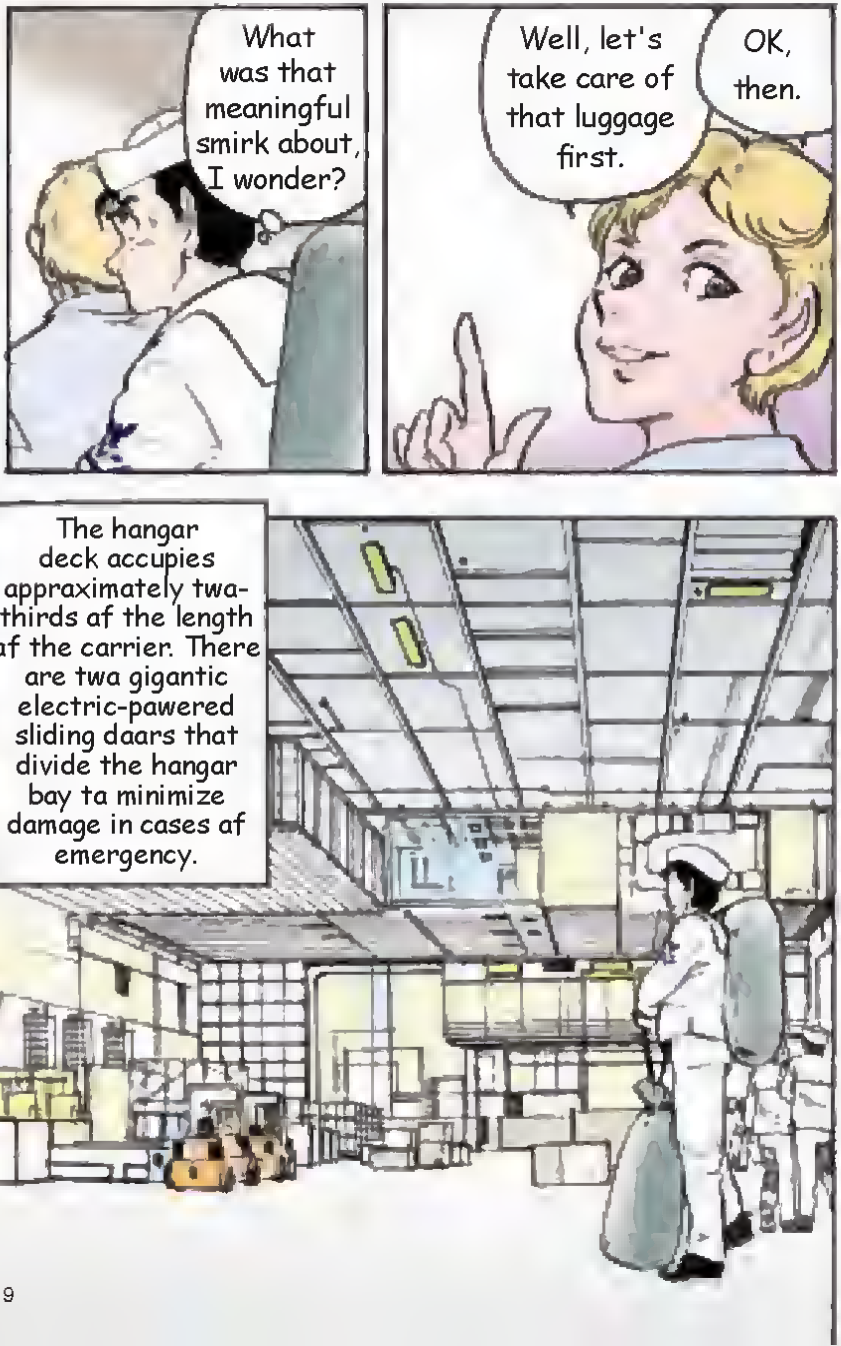

Everything is new. Of course, I don't know anybody, either.
This is my first time serving on board a carrier and my first overseas service assignment.
She's more like a skyscraper than a ship.
Huh?
Petty Officer Third Class Jack Ohara?

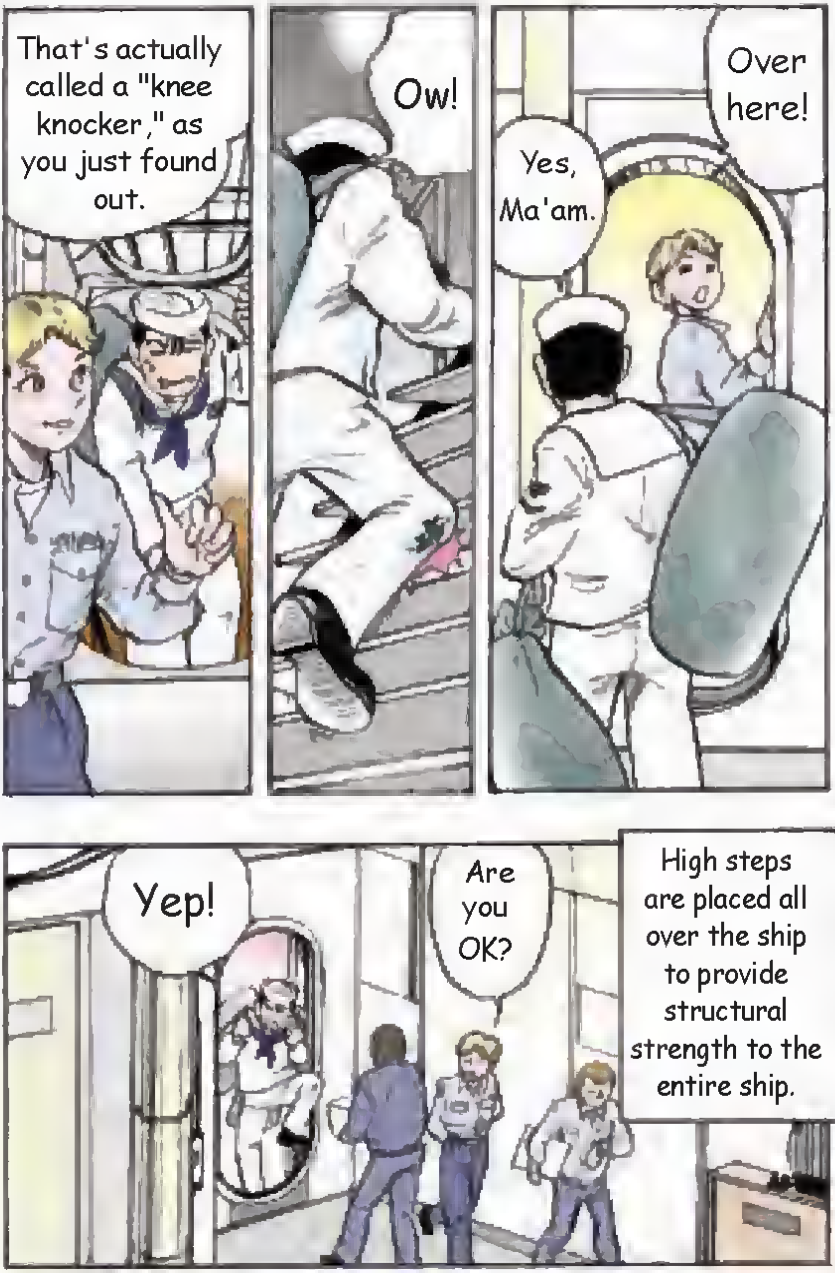
Same here.
I'm ossigned to be your mentor. Nice meeting you.

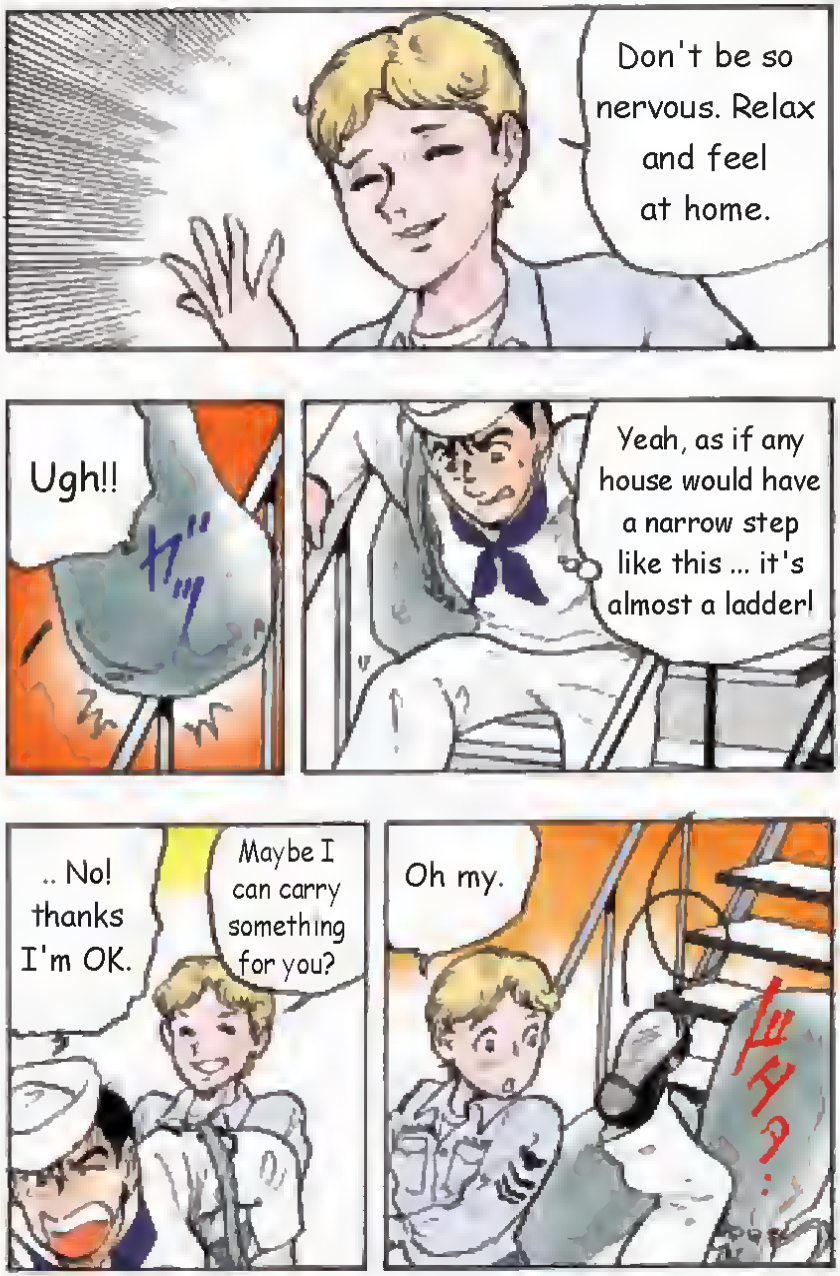

I'm Petty officer First Class Benton.
U.S NAVY


Oh ... she's a First Class Petty Officer.


Oh no, it's quite all right. I can carry them myself.
Oh, two seabags! ... Do you need help ?


What was that meaningful smirk about, I wonder?
Well, let's take care of that luggage first.
OK, then.
The hangar deck accupies appraximately twa-thirds af the length af the carrier. There are twa gigantic electric-pawered sliding daars that divide the hangar bay ta minimize damage in cases af emergency.


That's actually called a "knee knocker," as you just found out.
Ow!
Over here!
Yes, Ma'am.
Yep!
Are you OK?
High steps are placed all over the ship to provide structural strength to the entire ship.

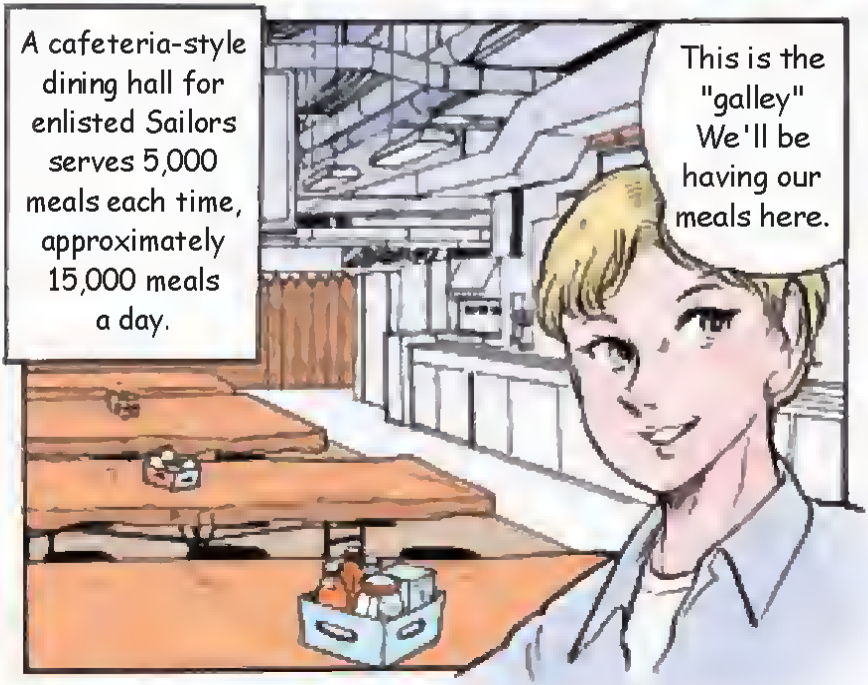

Don't be so nervous. Relax and feel at home.
Ugh!!
Yeah, as if any house would have a narrow step like this ... it's almost a ladder!
.. No! thanks I'm OK.
Maybe I can carry something for you?
Oh my.

Narrow, steep staircases are enough to make anyone feel uneasy about the future life on board.
Stairs, again? Is she doing this on purpose?
Hmm, this area is full of "warking party." Let's go this way.

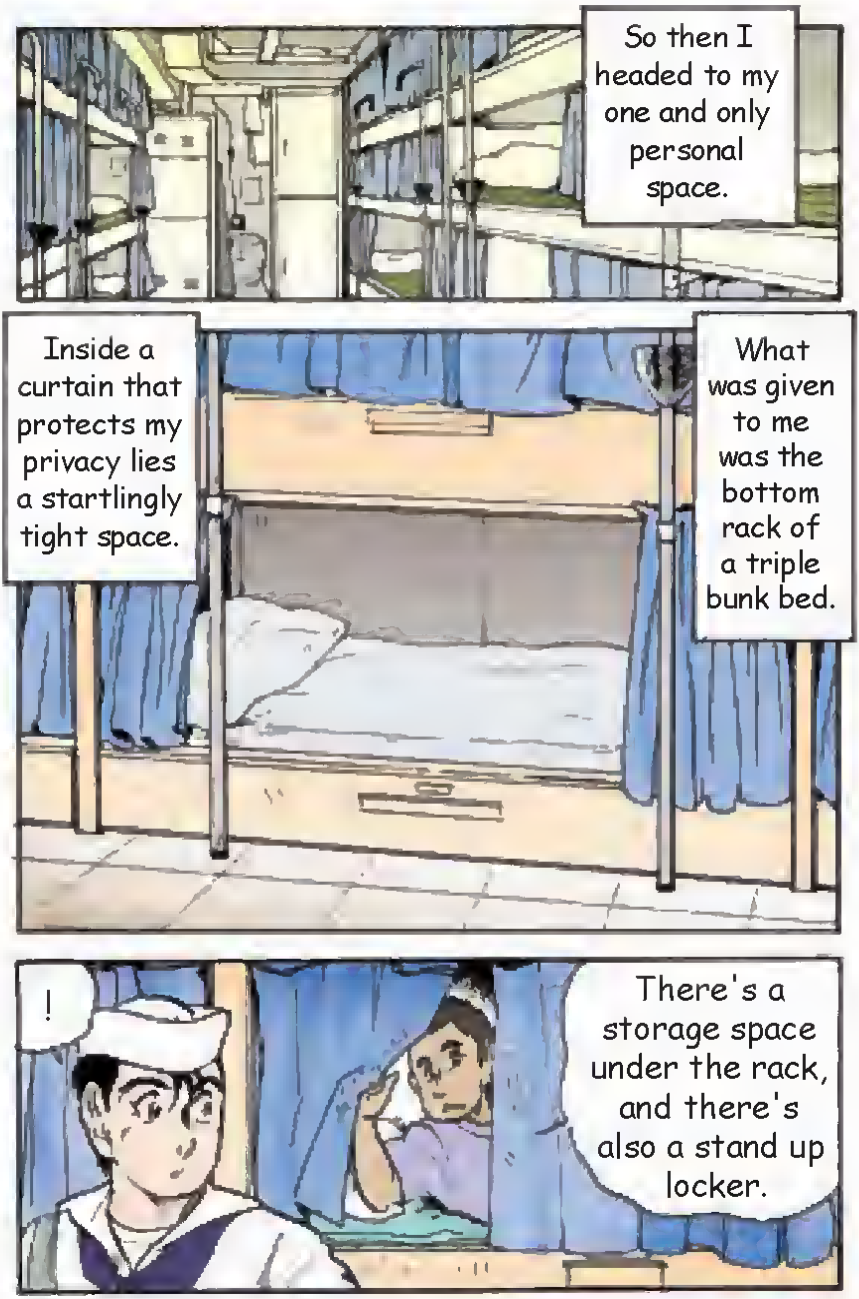
.. we haven't been here yet, then.
we've only come down three times, so ...
Um ...

OK... OK!
Over here.
Do you need a break ?
I'm fine, thank you!
This is the medical facility. It is capable of handling any injuries that might happen onboard.

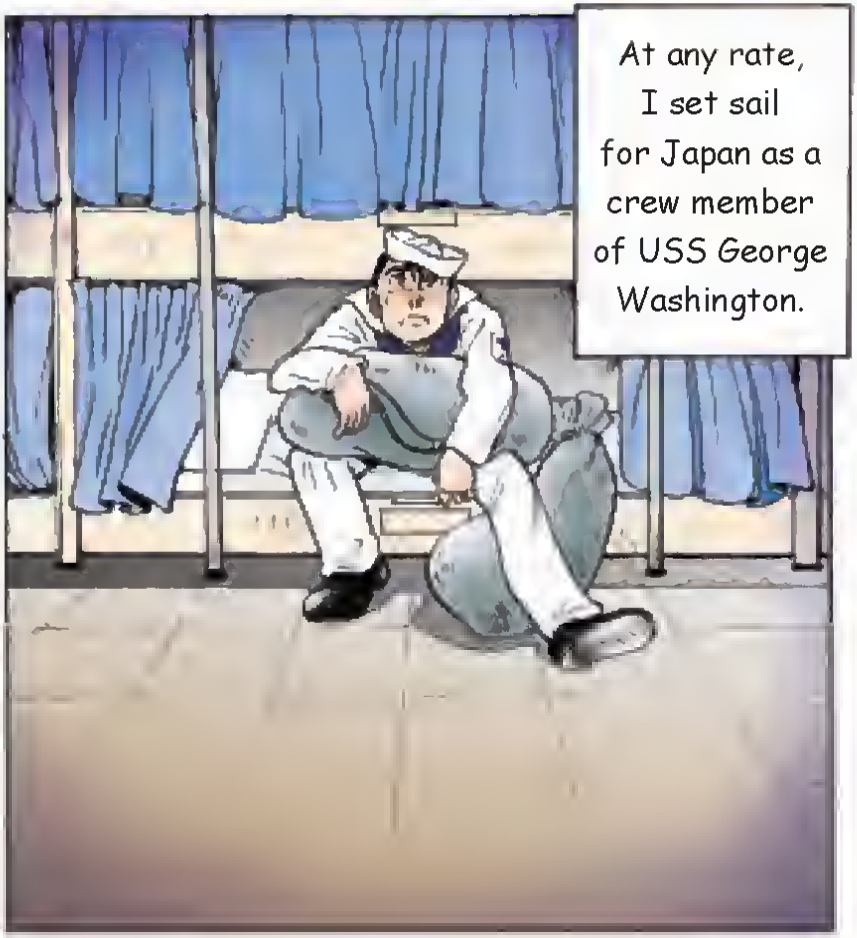
A dentist is available there as well, making this warship completely self-contained.
Fast and accurate treatment of any injuries or sicknesses is required at the medical facility.

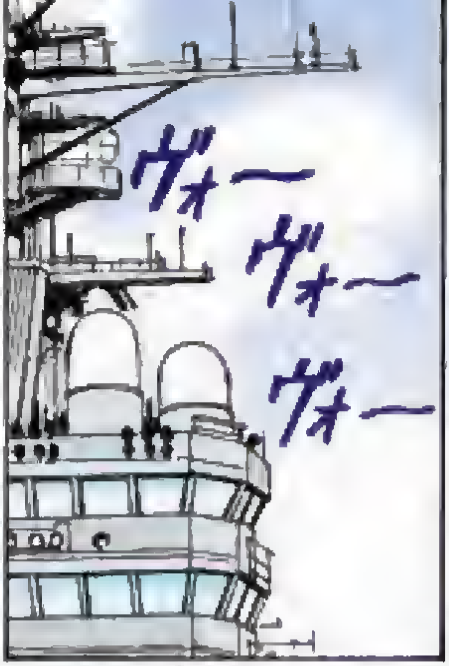

A cafeteria-style dining hall for enlisted Sailors serves 5,000 meals each time, approximately 15,000 meals a day.
This is the "galley" We'll be having our meals here.

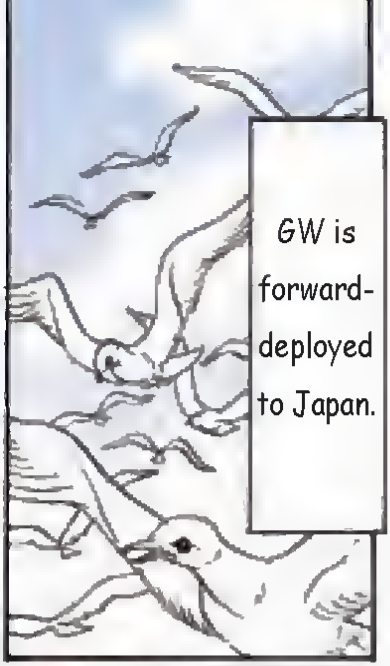
I guess that's about it.
Where am I? Just when I started to wonder if I'm really on board a ship.
OK ...
Why don't you go to berthing and rest now?
Yes, I think I remember the way ... I hope.
Well, I'm getting back to work. Are you going to be OK?
OK then, see you later.
Grin


So then I headed to my one and only personal space.
Inside a curtain that protects my privacy lies a startlingly tight space.
What was given to me was the bottom rack of a triple bunk bed.
!
There's a storage space under the rack, and there's also a stand up locker.

It's a little too late for that.
I guess you can put some more personal items at your work station, too. You need to plan ahead what to do with your luggage, before getting on a carrier vessel.

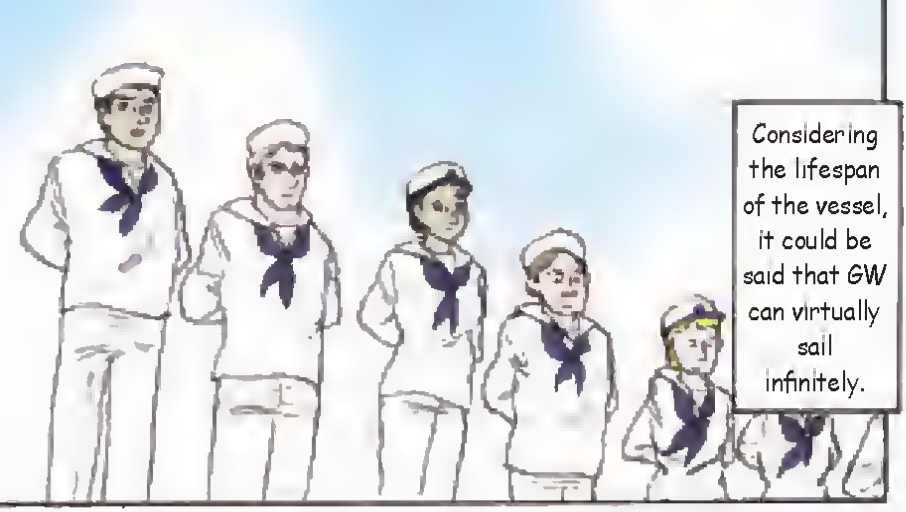

At any rate, I set sail for Japan as a crew member of USS George Washington.



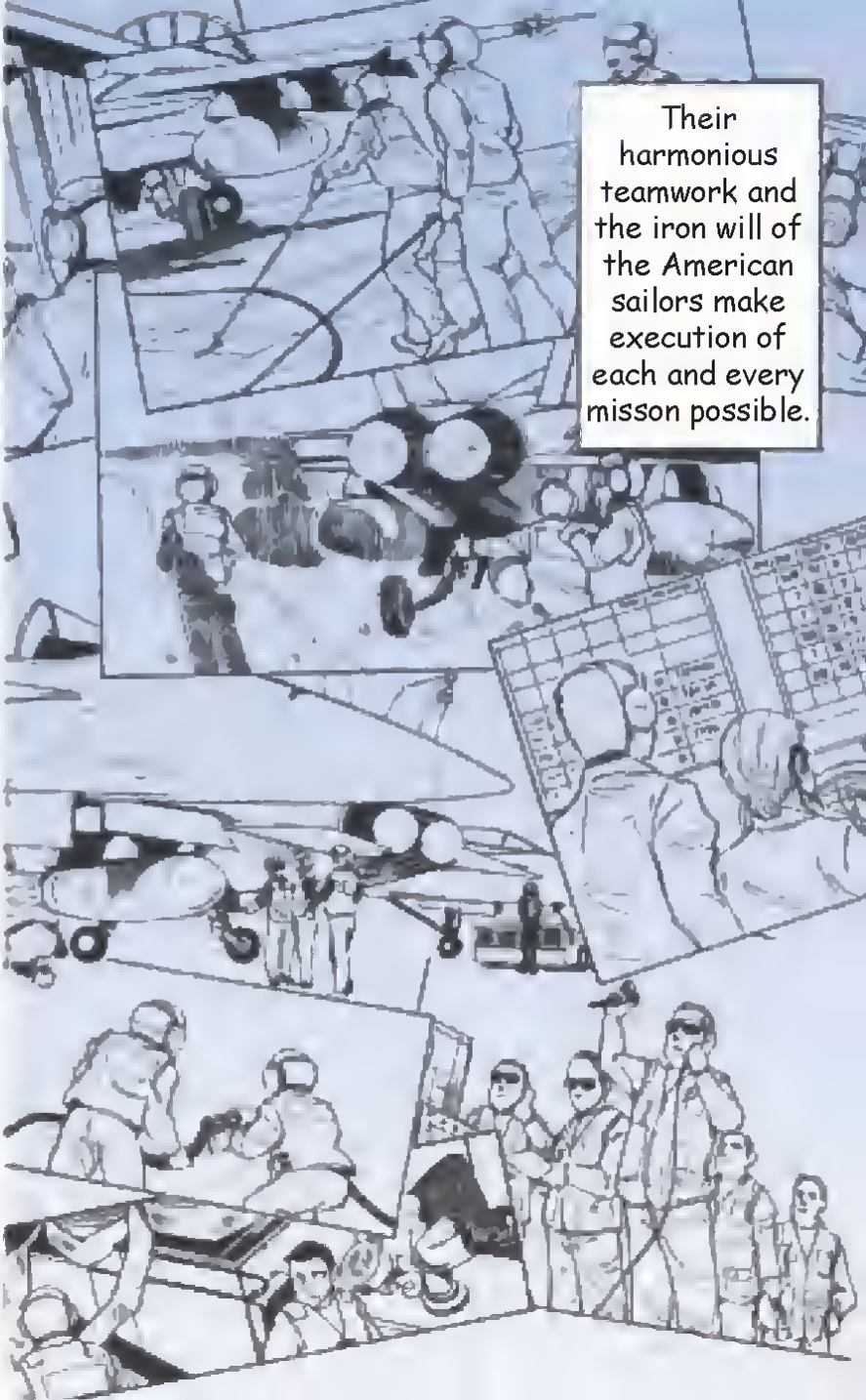


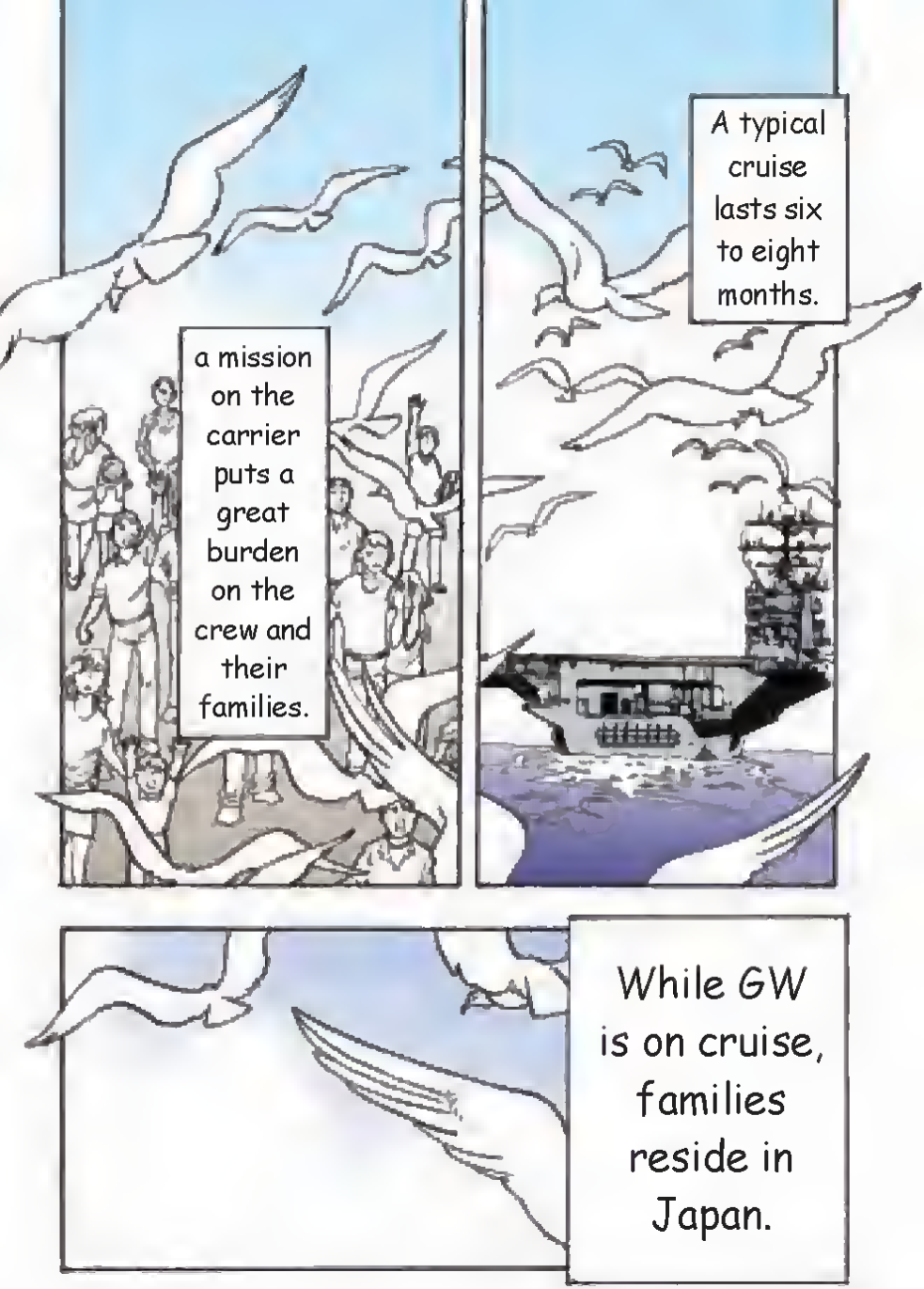
GW is forward-deployed to Japan.

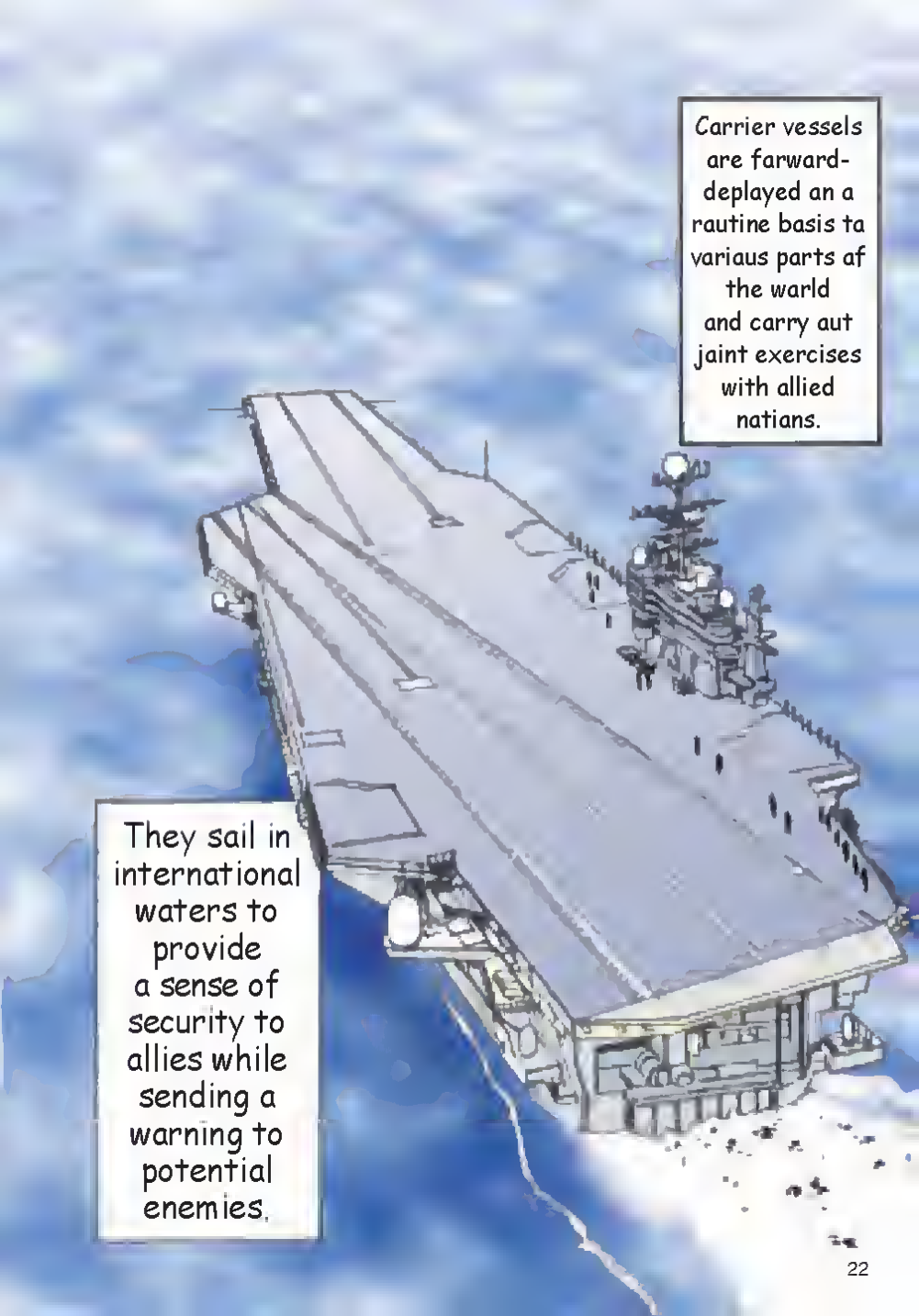
Not only does the heart of GW have approximately a 50-year lifespan, it efficiently provides stable energy and doesn't require re-fueling.


Considering the lifespan of the vessel, it could be said that GW can virtually sail infinitely.

Still, what moves that vessel is people.


Their harmonious teamwork and the iron will of the American sailors make execution of each and every misson possible.


a mission on the carrier puts a great burden on the crew and their families.
A typical cruise lasts six to eight months.
While GW is on cruise, families reside in Japan.


Carrier vessels are farward-deplayed an a rautine basis ta variaus parts af the warld and carry aut jaint exercises with allied natians.
They sail in international waters to provide a sense of security to allies while sending a warning to potential enemies.

It's o chonce for eoch of us to understand our own duties ond to improve our skills.
This voyage isn't just a simple relocation, either.
There!
Especially for new crew members, this voyage is a perfect opportunity to join and come together as a team.
Hey rookie.
JACKSON

Excuse me?
Ha ha! That doesn't work! You may try to act cool, but I can still tell by the way you walk.
I'm Jack Ohara. Nice meet to you.
You'll get used to it soon enough. I'm Paul Jackson.

This ship is built with a-few-inch-thick ultrahigh-strength steel, it weighs 97,000 tons you know ?
97,000 tons ? wow!
Call me Paul!
Yes, Sir. Thank you, Mr. Jackson.
Well Jack, don't hesitate to ask me if you have any questions!
Ha ha ha ... well, good luck!
Wait, we're the same rank!
OK, Paul ... !?

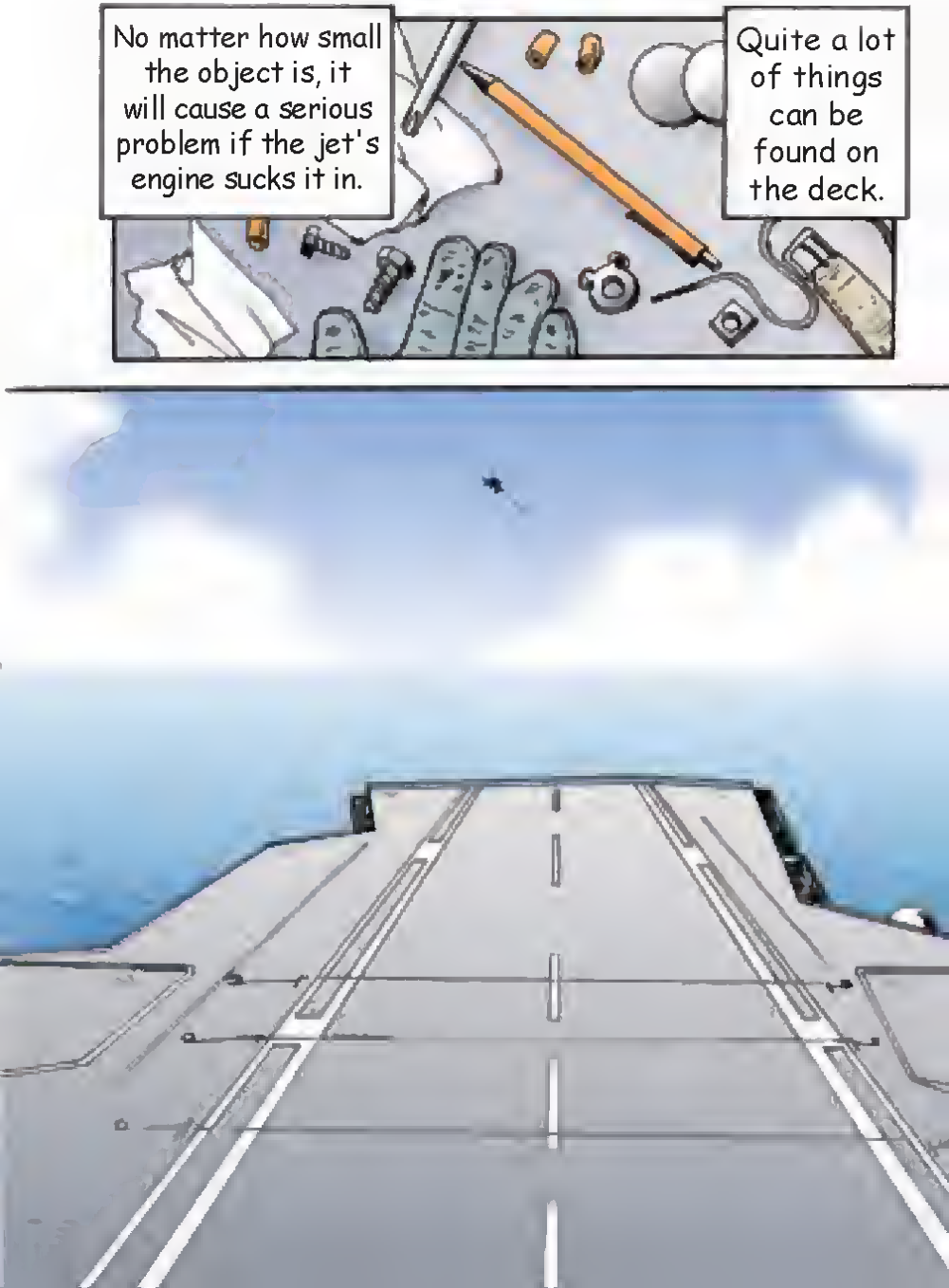
This was the start of my proud life on board a carrier vessel.
Hey, where's the new guy?
Is everybody present?

Yes Chief, I'm here, Sir.
Chief, I may be sick. My head is heavy, and I feel queasy and nauseated.
You're late! How can you be late for quarters on your first day!?
What?

How sad ... are you sure you're in the navy?
Oh ...
Ha ha! Sounds like you're seasick.
We need to be ready for the aircraft wing!
Today, everyone will be participating in FOD Walk Down. Assemble in one hour on the flight deck.
What?
You're lucky. We get to have good food today!

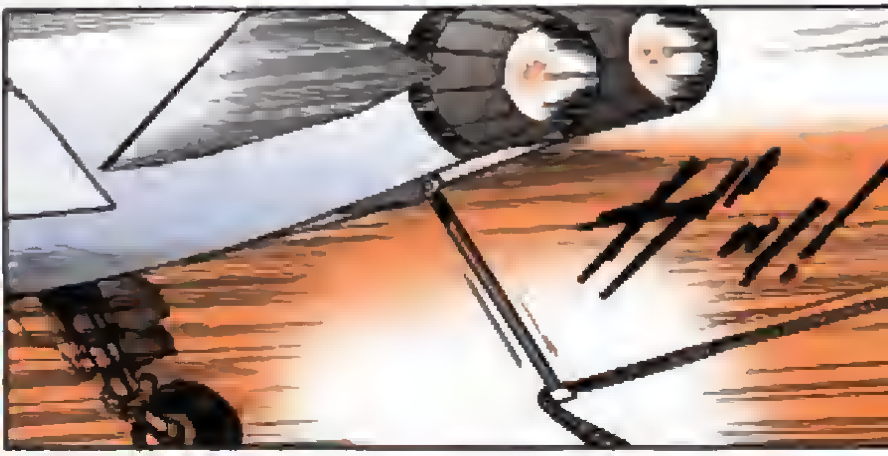
We'll have steaks, lobsters, shrimp and ...
We always have a feast on the first day of the voyage, as well as the last day.

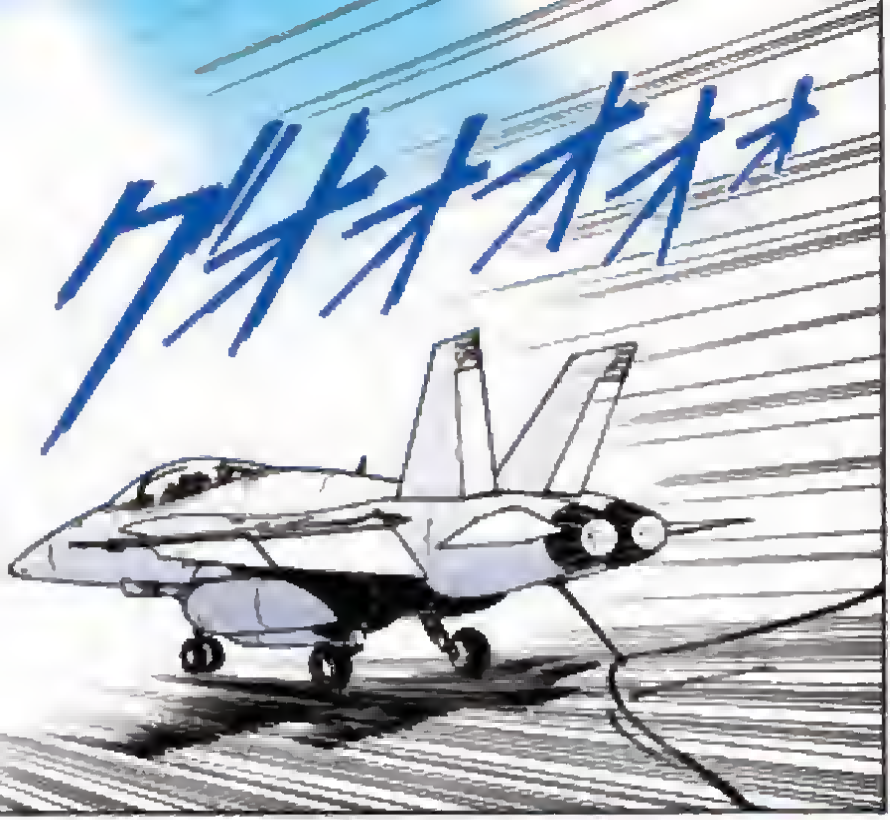
Several dozen to a hundred people form a line and pick up whatever is on the deck.
FOD Walk Down _ To put it simply, it's the act of picking up trash on the flight deck.


No matter how small the object is, it will cause a serious problem if the jet's engine sucks it in.
Quite a lot of things can be found on the deck.

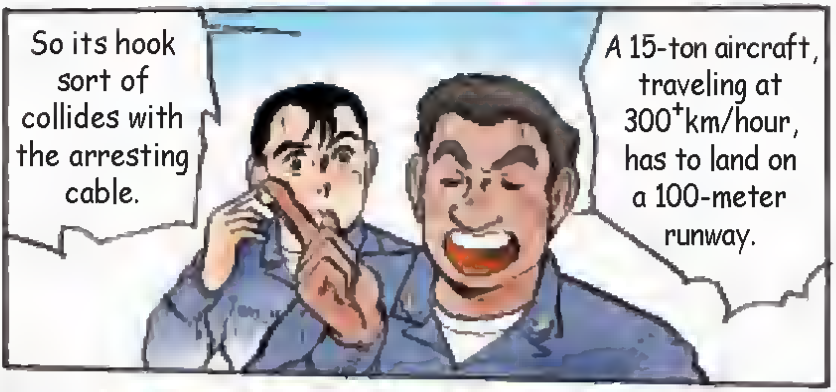
Step away from the portside and prepare for landing.
First aircraft is approaching.
Air Boss, Flight Operations Commander
All clear on deck. Green deck!

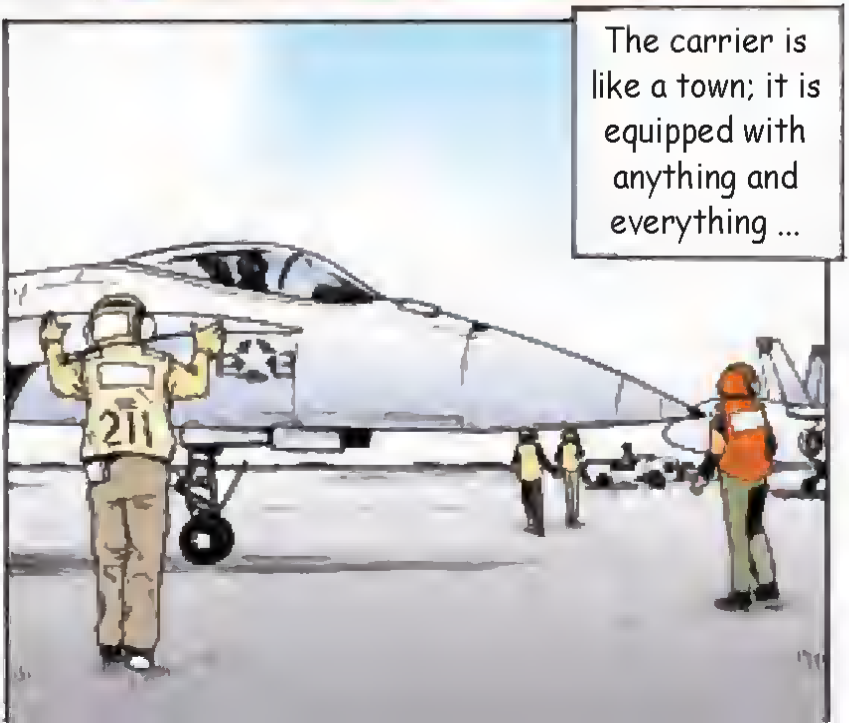
キィィィィー..


ガッ!!


ゴオオオオ

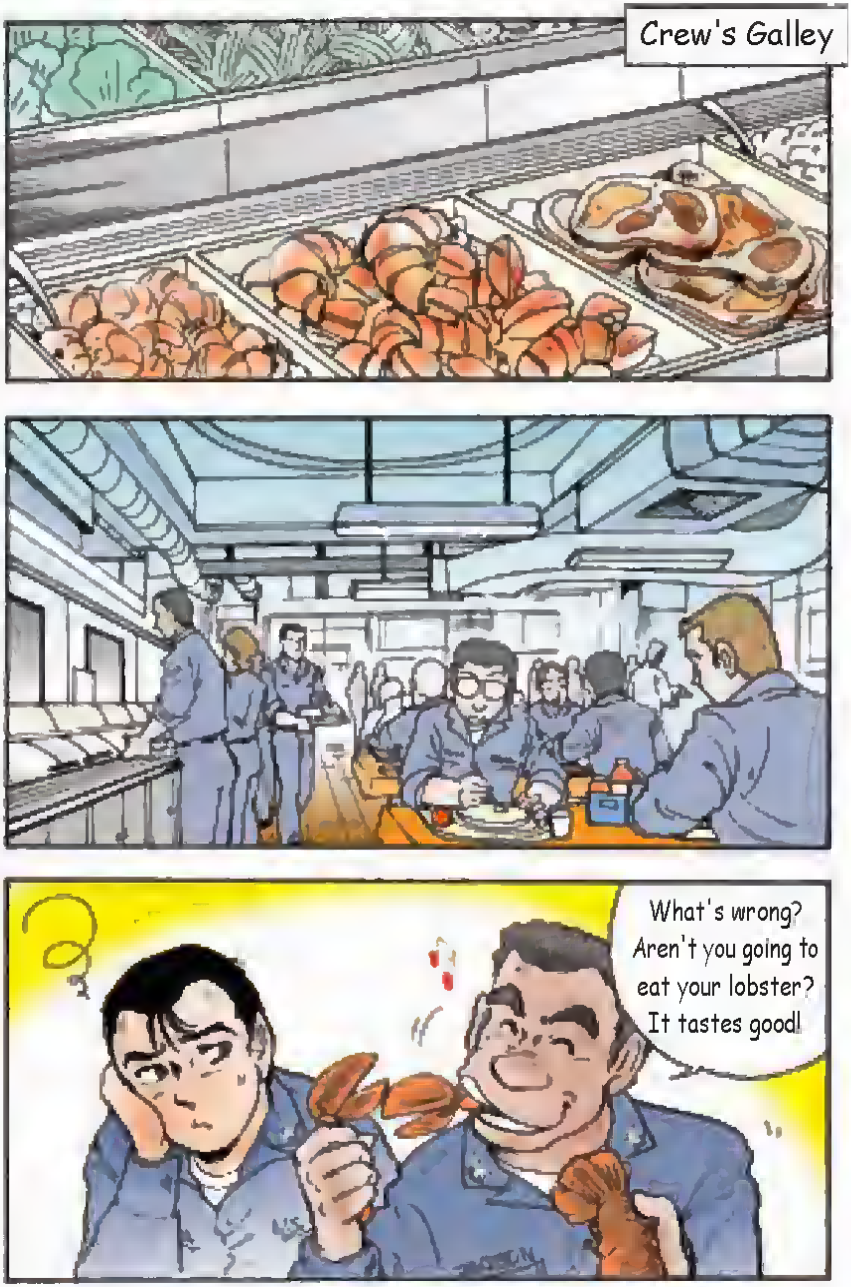
Ha ha. It does collide, in a way.
What is that noise!? Did the jet collide?
ガラガラガラ
わっ
Wow!!

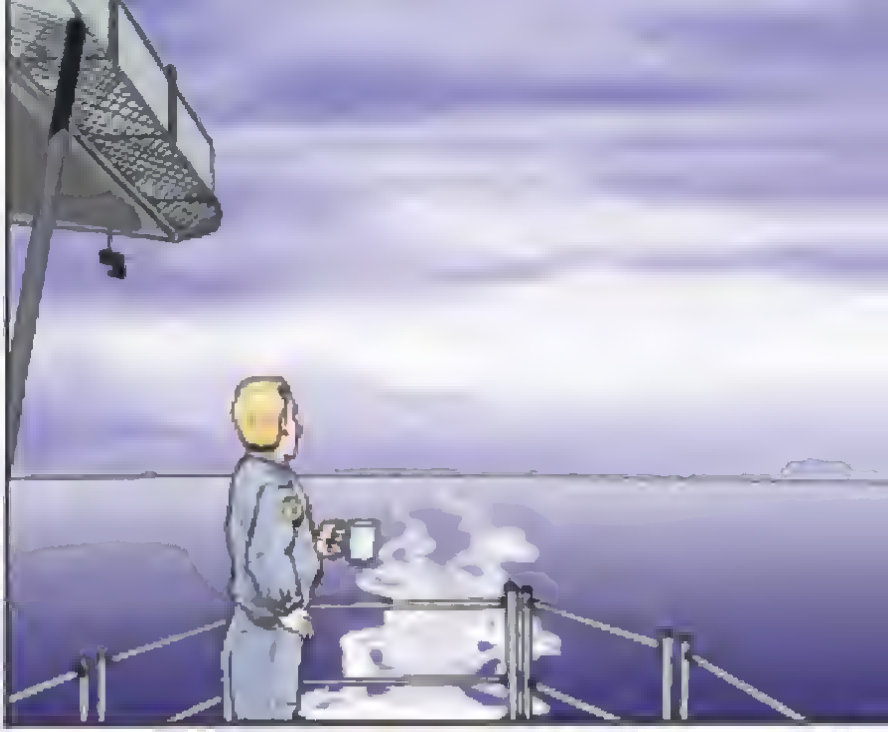

So its hook sort of collides with the arresting cable.
A 15-ton aircraft, traveling at 300+km/hour, has to land on a 100-meter runway.


The carrier is like a town; it is equipped with anything and everything ...
211

... all to support the carrier air wing.

The strength of a carrier's existence lies with its aircraft wing.

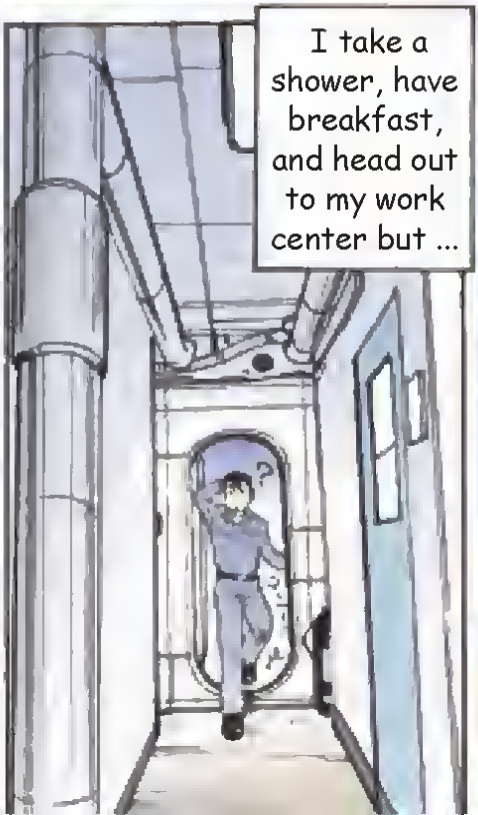

Crew's Galley
What's wrong? Aren't you going to eat your lobster? It tastes good!



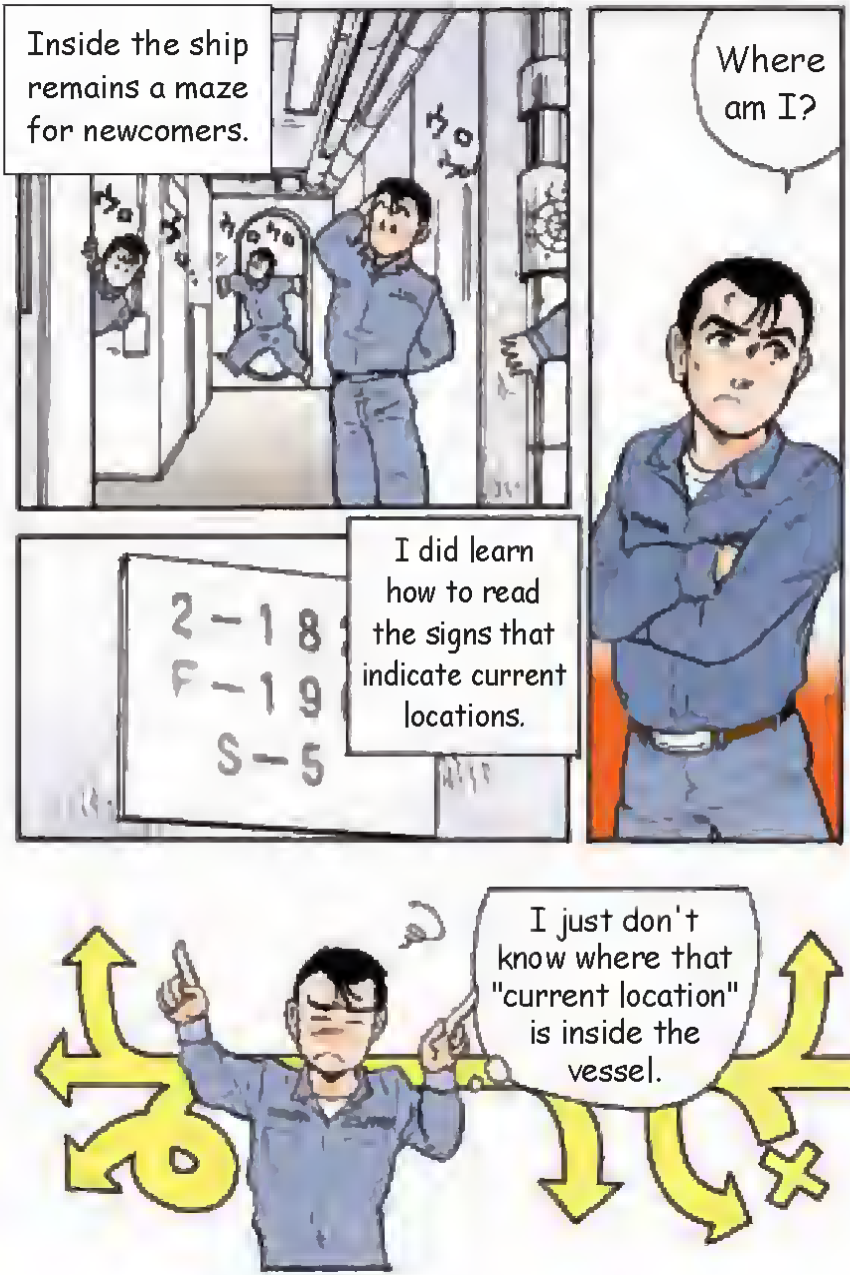
Each day starts in darkness.

It's not because I work the night shift.

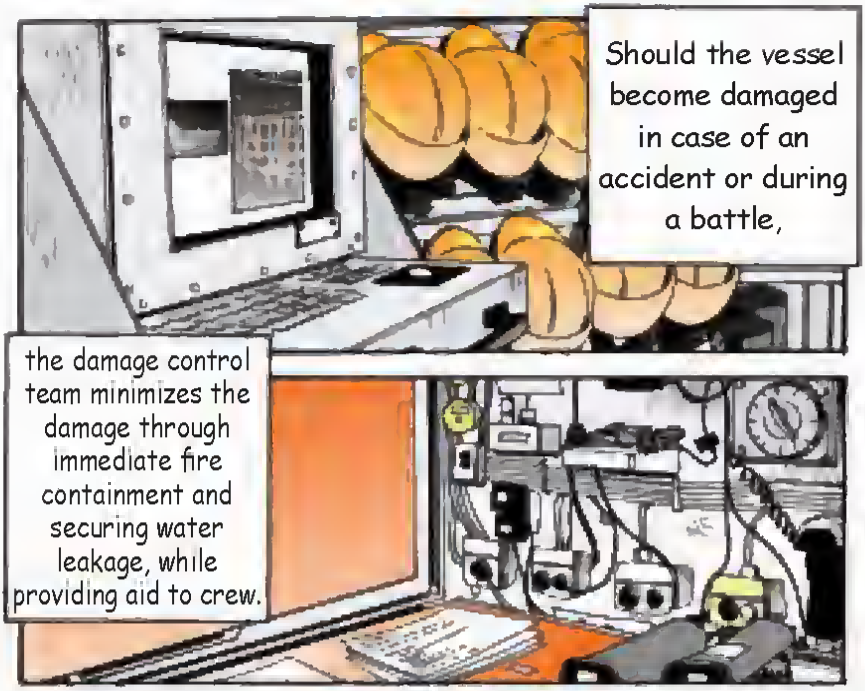
Members of the crew are either on day or night shift.

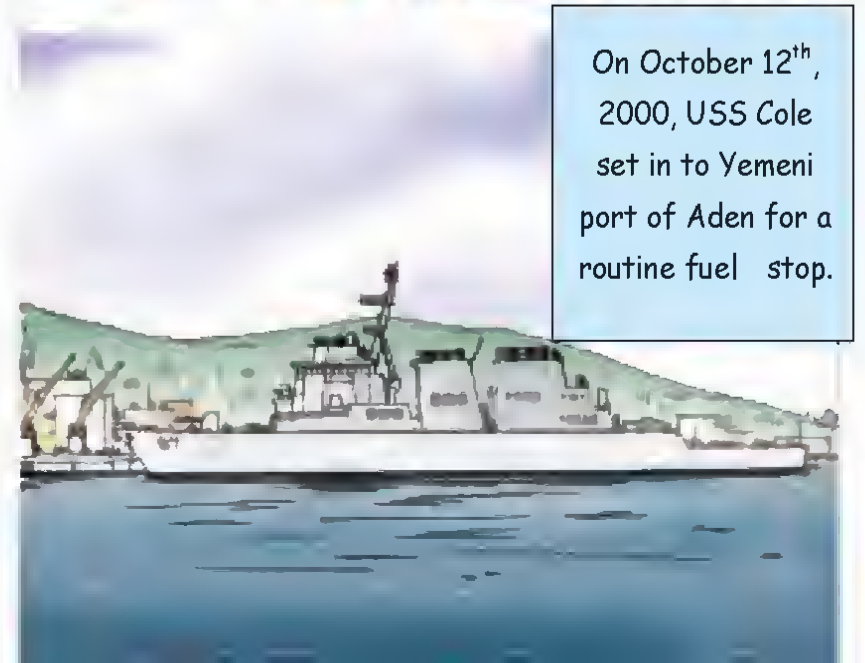

I take a shower, have breakfast, and head out to my work center but ...

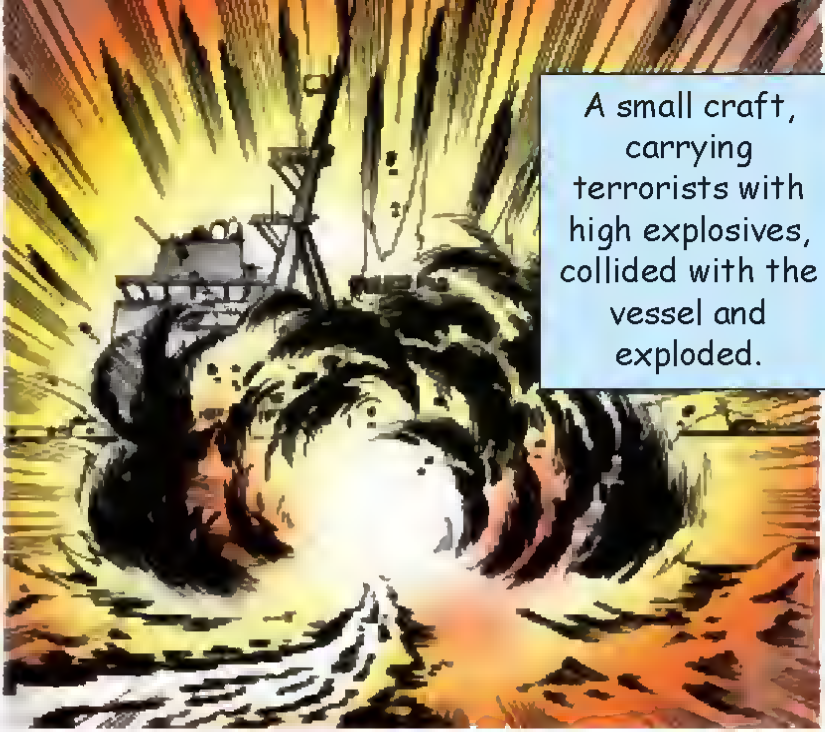
That means someone is sleeping in berthing all the time. So we must keep the lights off.

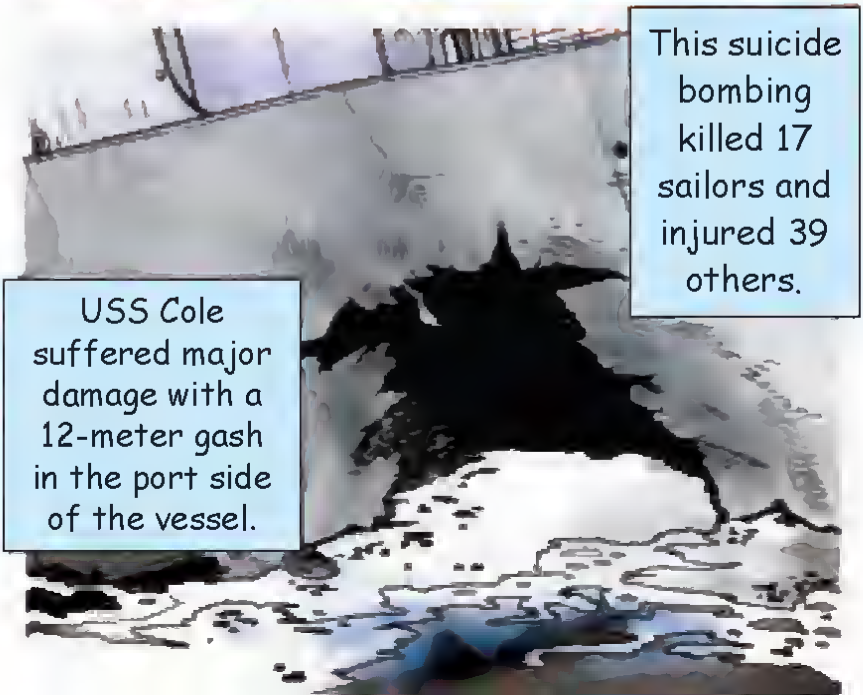

Inside the ship remains a maze for newcomers.
Where am I?
I did learn how to read the signs that indicate current locations.
2-18
F-19
S-5
I just don't know where that "current location" is inside the vessel.

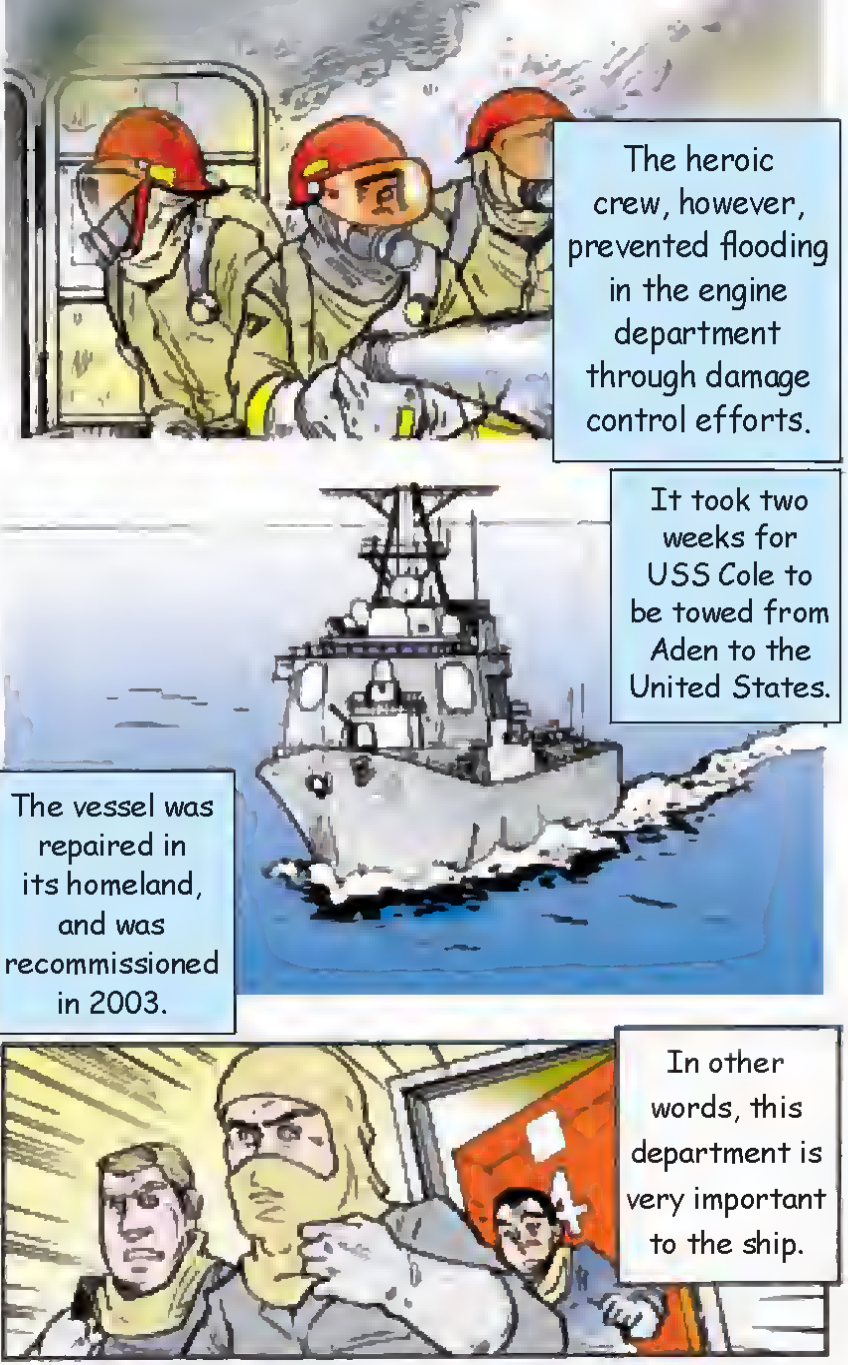
Damage Control Center
Ohara, you're late!
Hurry up unless you want the Chief to yell at you again!
Um ... OK.


Should the vessel become damaged in case of an accident or during a battle,
the damage control team minimizes the damage through immediate fire containment and securing water leakage, while providing aid to crew.


On October 12th, 2000, USS Cole set in to Yemeni port of Aden for a routine fuel stop.

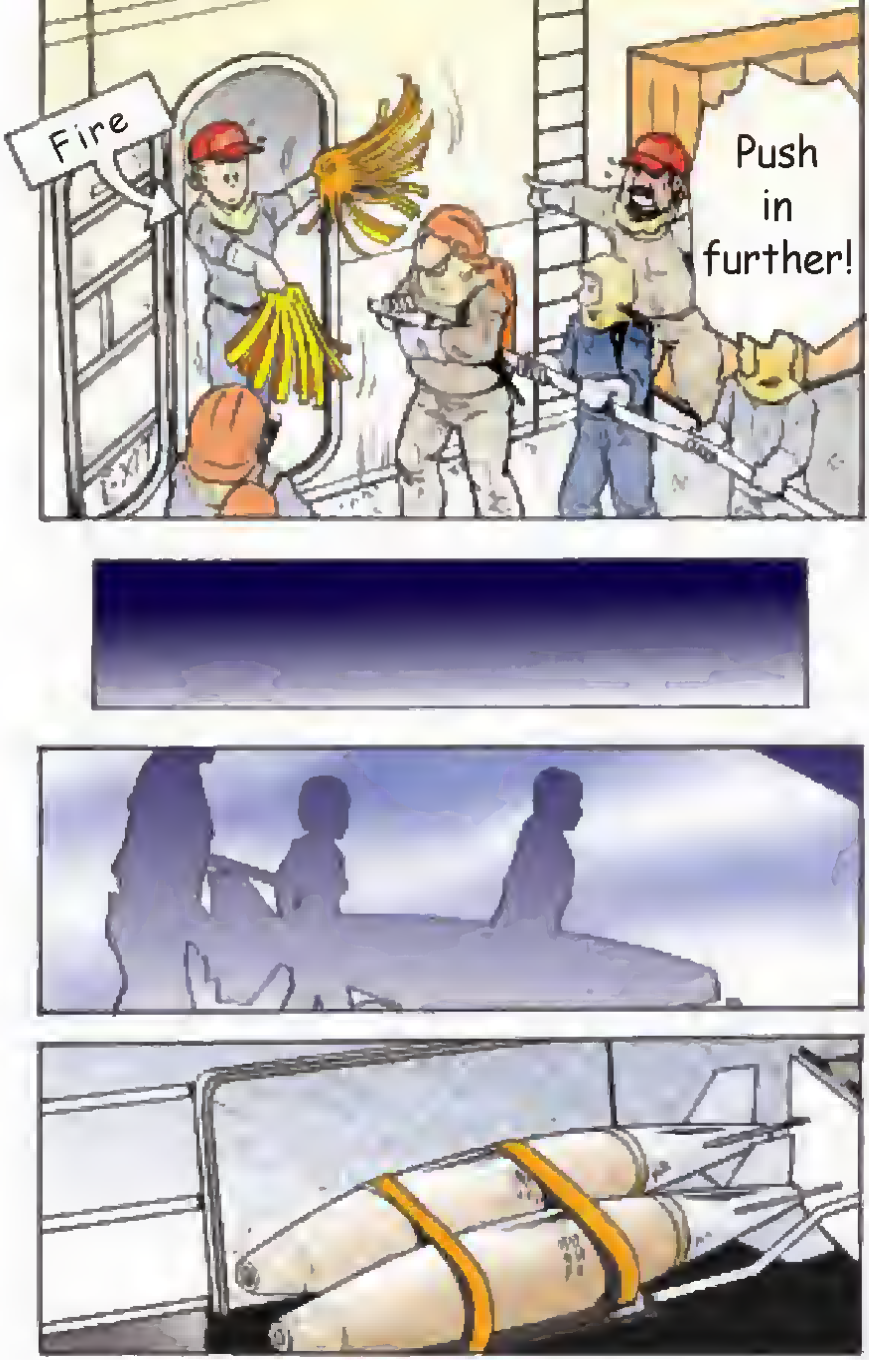

A small craft, carrying terrorists with high explosives, collided with the vessel and exploded.

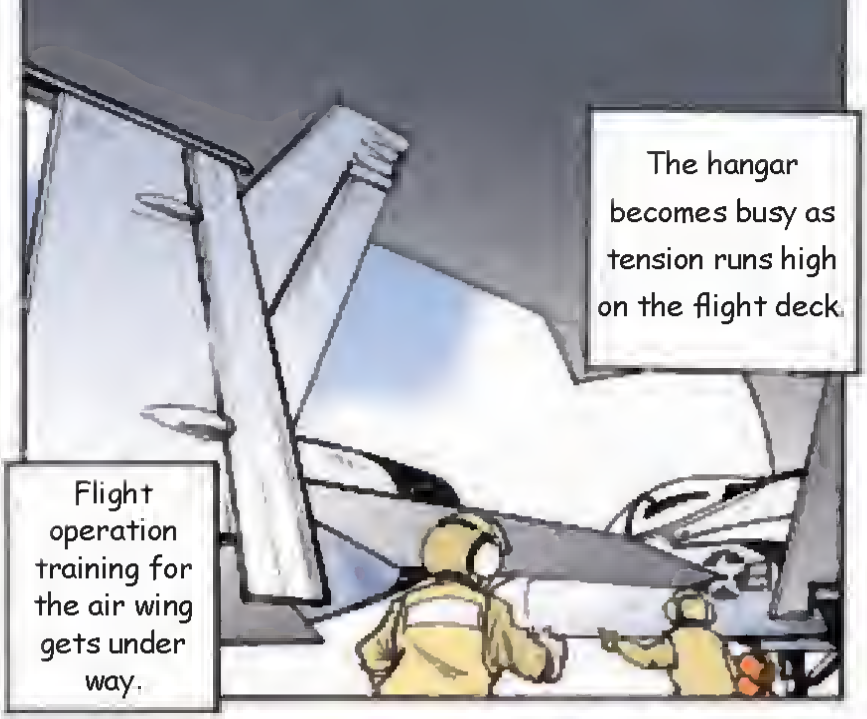

This suicide bombing killed 17 sailors and injured 39 others.
USS Cole suffered major damage with a 12-meter gash in the port side of the vessel.


The heroic crew, however, prevented flooding in the engine department through damage control efforts.
It took two weeks for USS Cole to be towed from Aden to the United States.
The vessel was repaired in its homeland, and was recommissioned in 2003.
In other words, this department is very important to the ship.

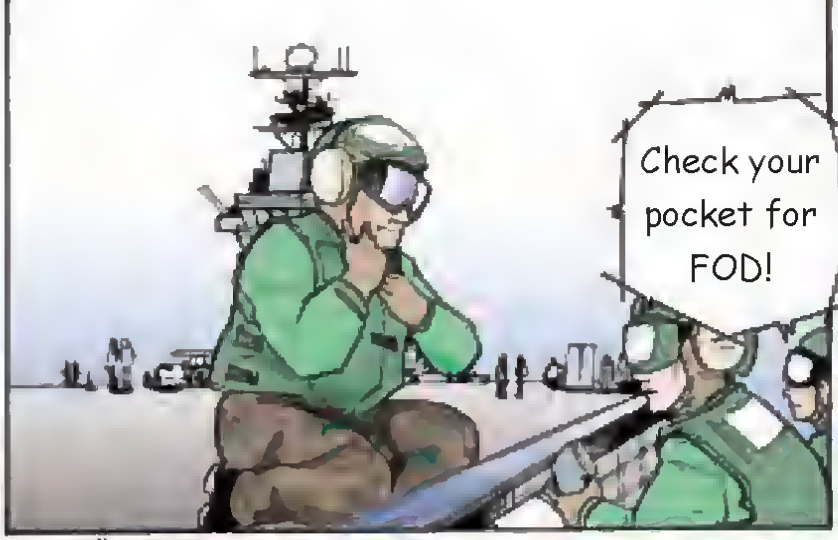
Hurry up! Get all the fire extinguishers out!!
Firefighting drills are extremely important. In case of a fire, everyone must participate in extinguishing the fire.
Hurry up and move! Move it!!
It'll be a disaster if the storage catches fire!

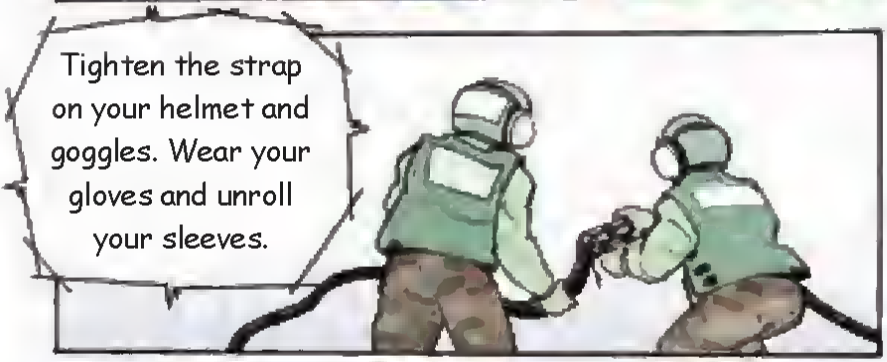
OK, let's go!
Wait, hold on!
What are you doing? You go get a hose!
Let's go!!
Wow!!

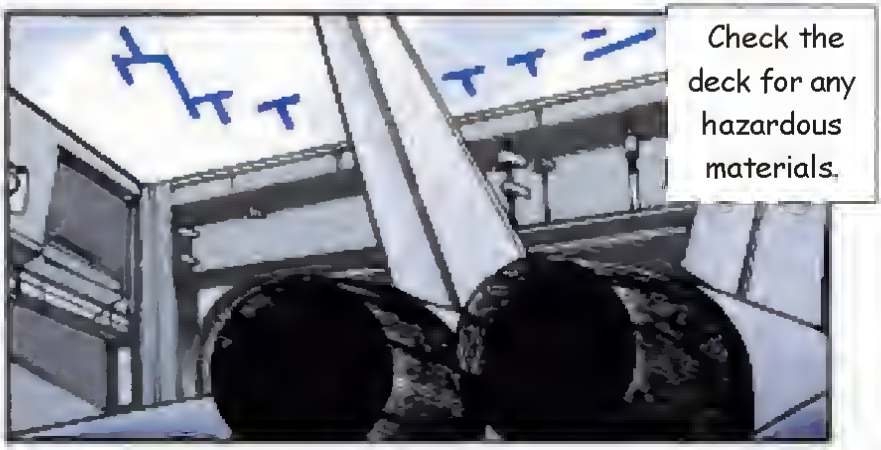

Fire
Push in further!


The hangar becomes busy as tension runs high on the flight deck.
Flight operation training for the air wing gets under way.

Flight quarters, Flight quarters, all personnel don flight and safety gear.
AIR BOSS

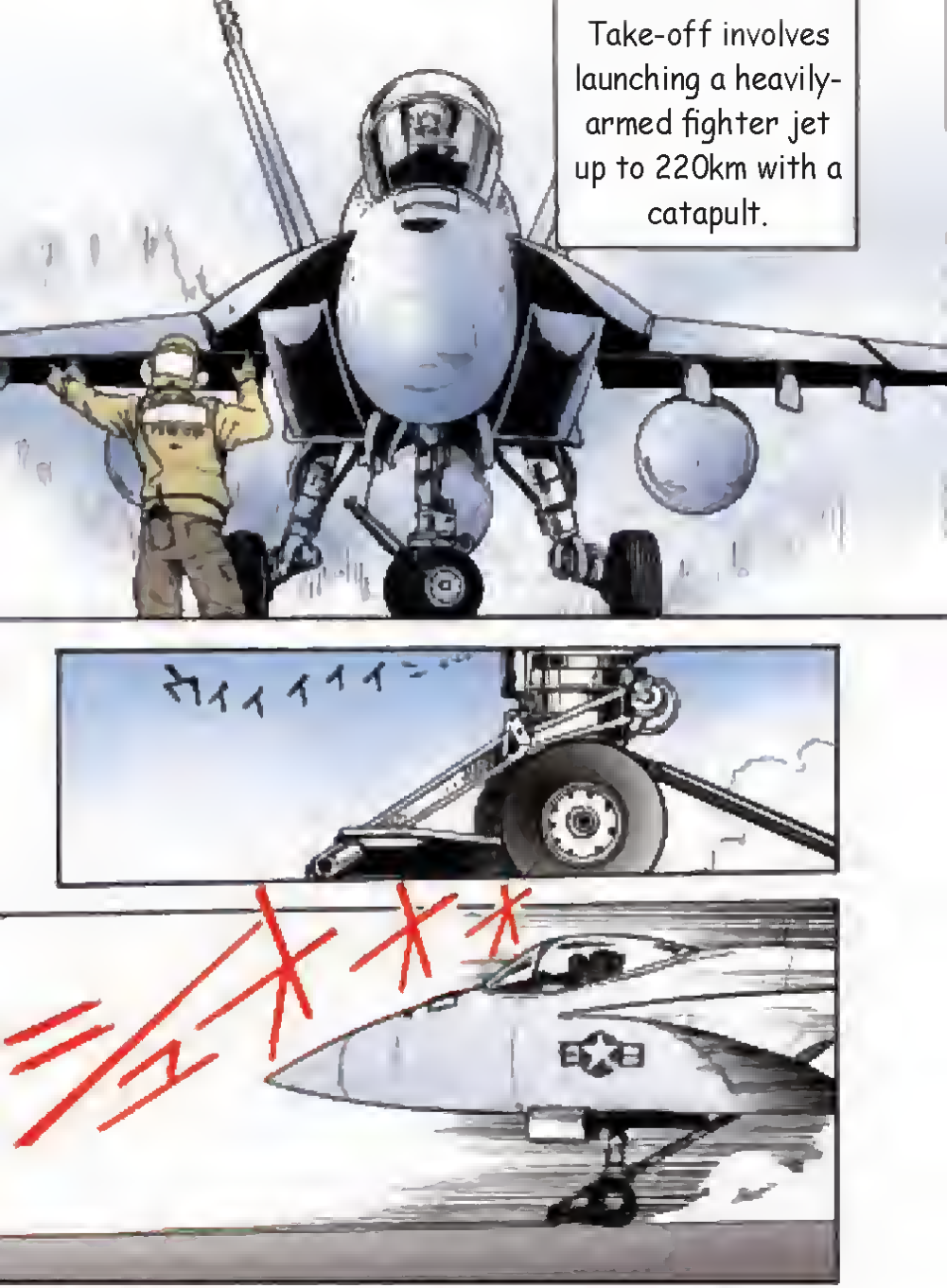

Check your pocket for FOD!


Tighten the strap on your helmet and goggles. Wear your gloves and unroll your sleeves.


Check the deck for any hazardous materials.

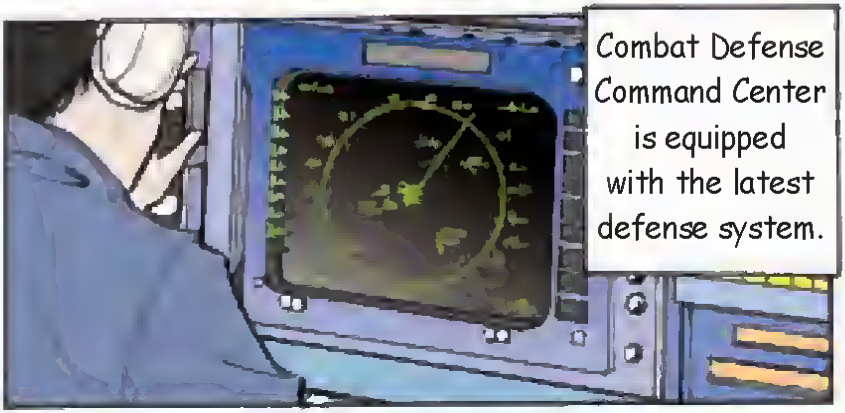
ウイイイン…
Commencing take-off.

There's always flight training on a carrier to prevent the pilots from losing their touch.

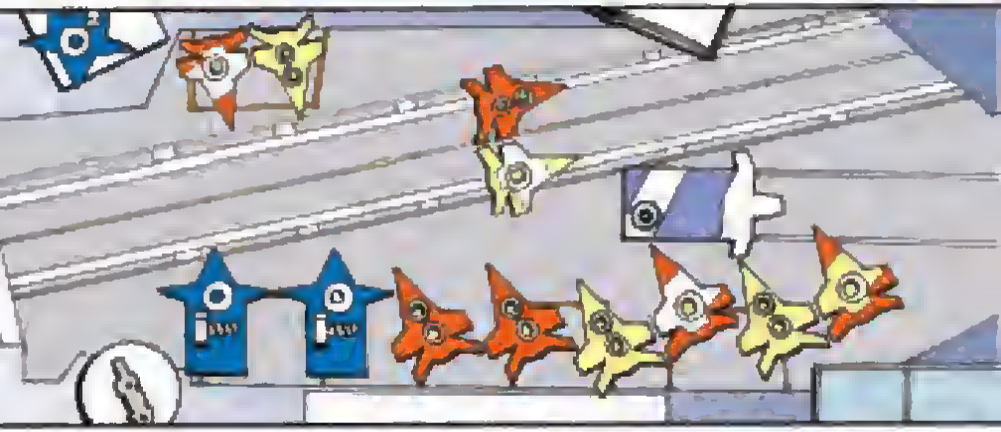

Take-off involves launching a heavily-armed fighter jet up to 220km with a catapult.

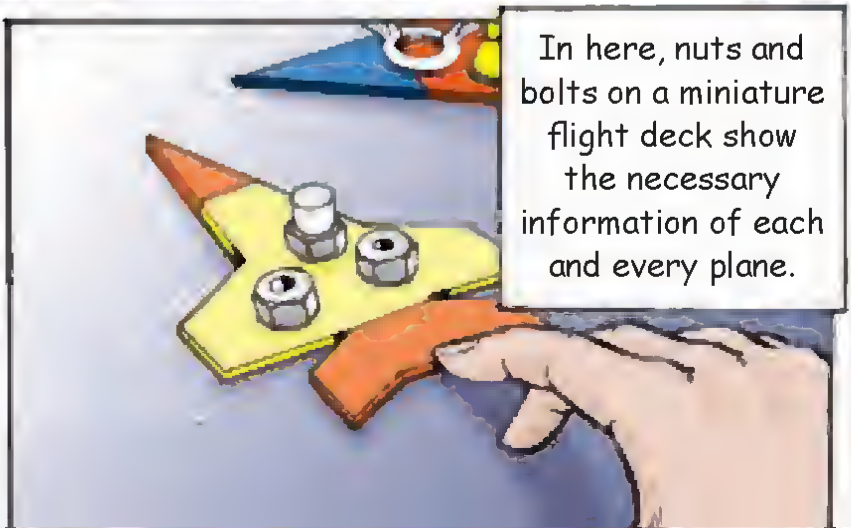
Besides take-off and landing drills,

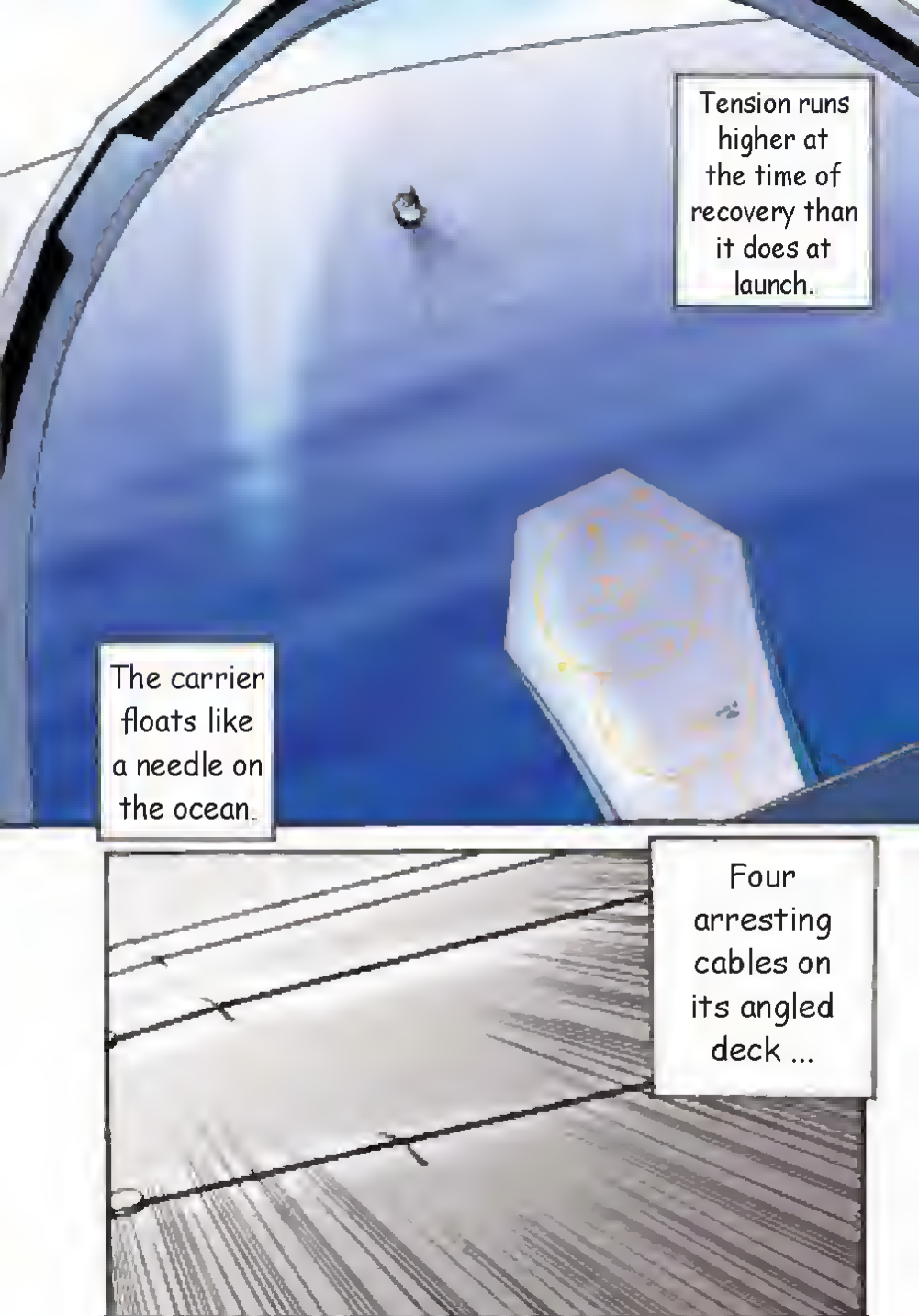
flight operations also include attack/defense system training.


Combat Defense Command Center is equipped with the latest defense system.

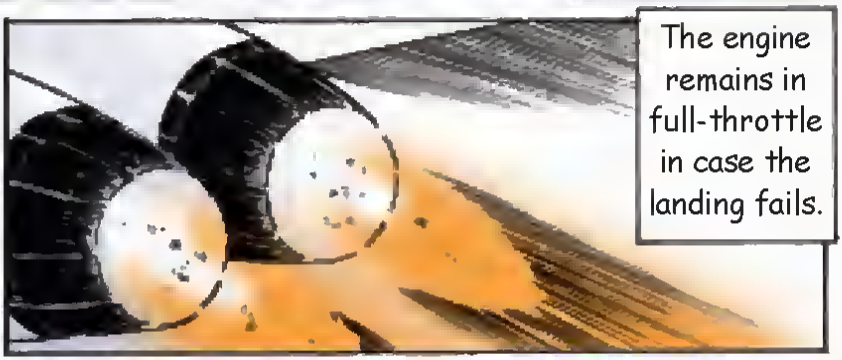
HANDLER
BIG DOG
Flight Operation Room has absolutely nothing to do with computers.

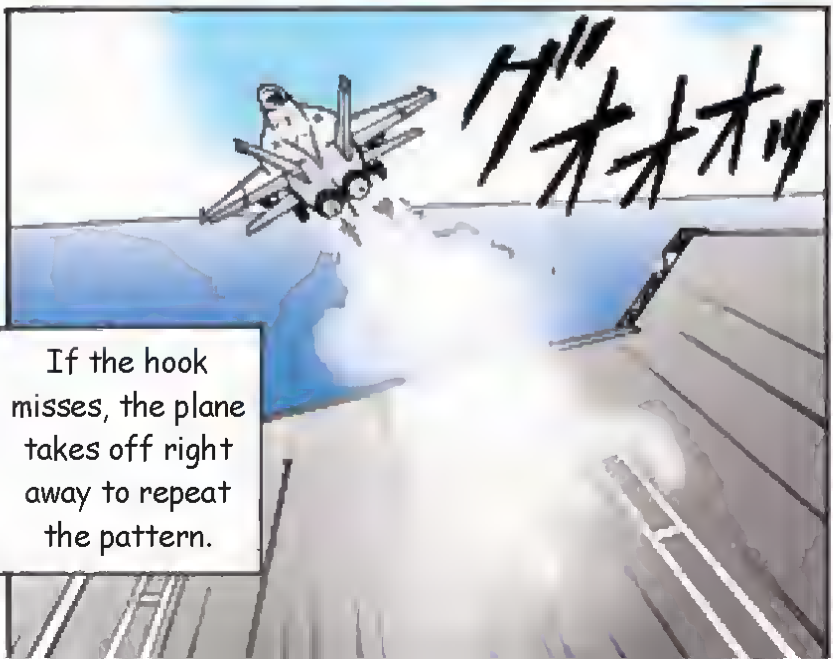



In here, nuts and bolts on a miniature flight deck show the necessary information of each and every plane.

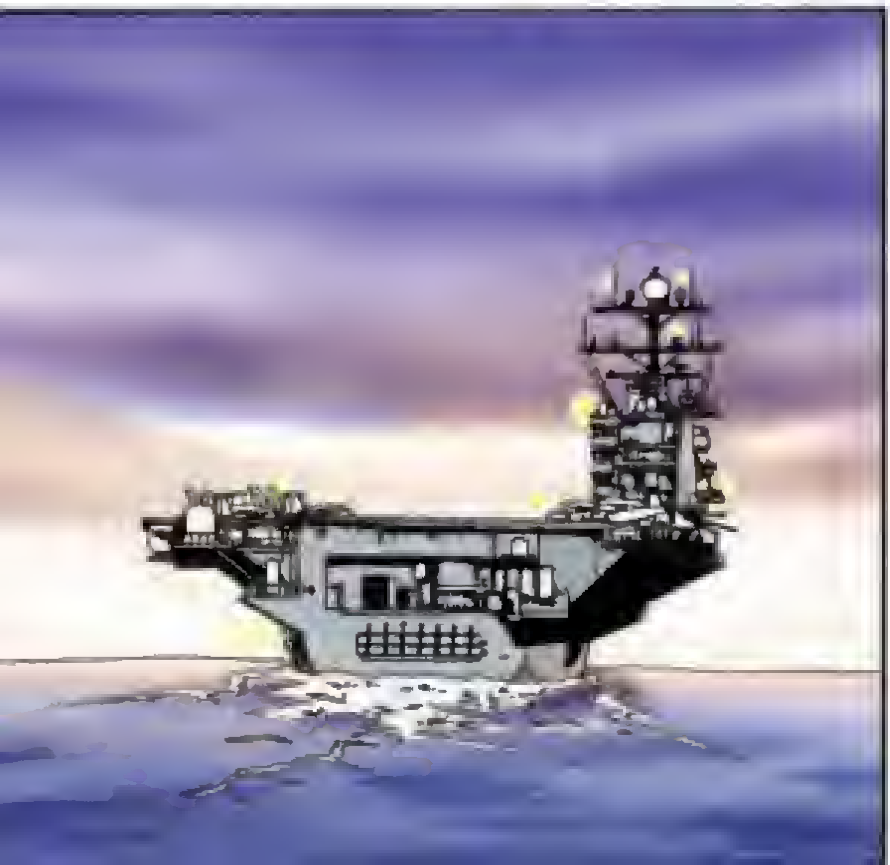

Tension runs higher at the time of recovery than it does at launch.
The carrier floats like a needle on the ocean.
Four arresting cables on its angled deck ...

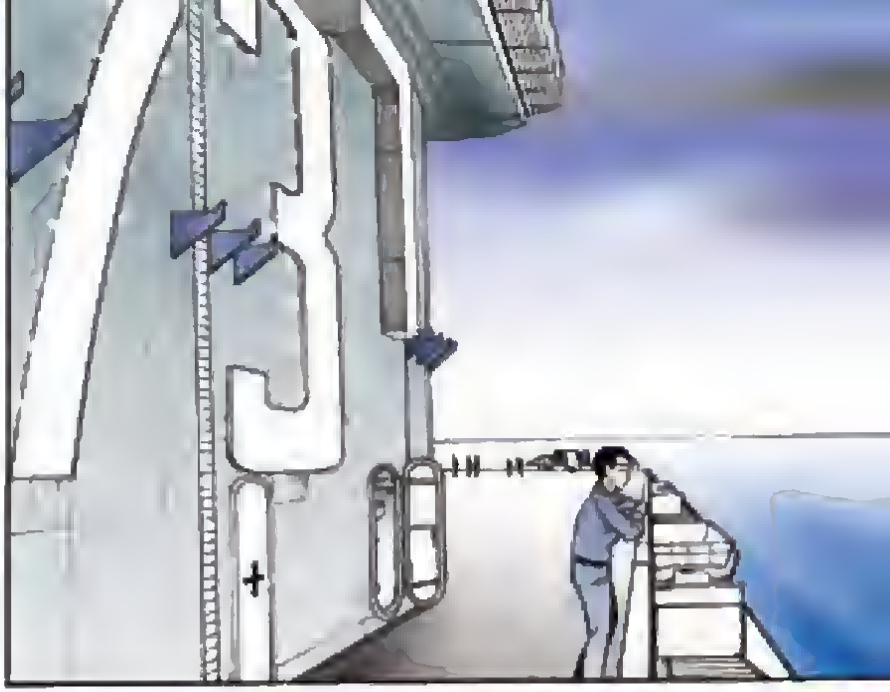
... must catch the plane's tail-hook.

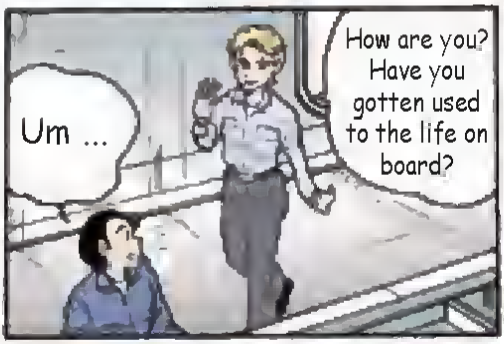

The engine remains in full-throttle in case the landing fails.


グオオオ!!
If the hook misses, the plane takes off right away to repeat the pattern.

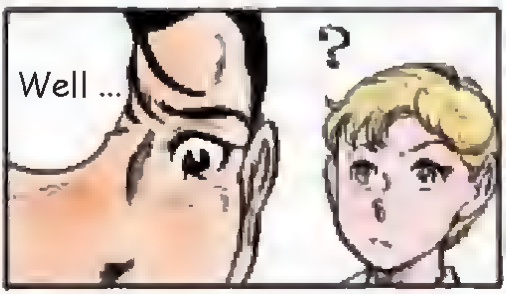
What a noise! Do they do this everyday?
That's right. They do this during the day, at night, even on rainy or windy days.
Well, you definitely are a seasoned sailor when this noise sounds like a lullaby.
You'll get used to it.



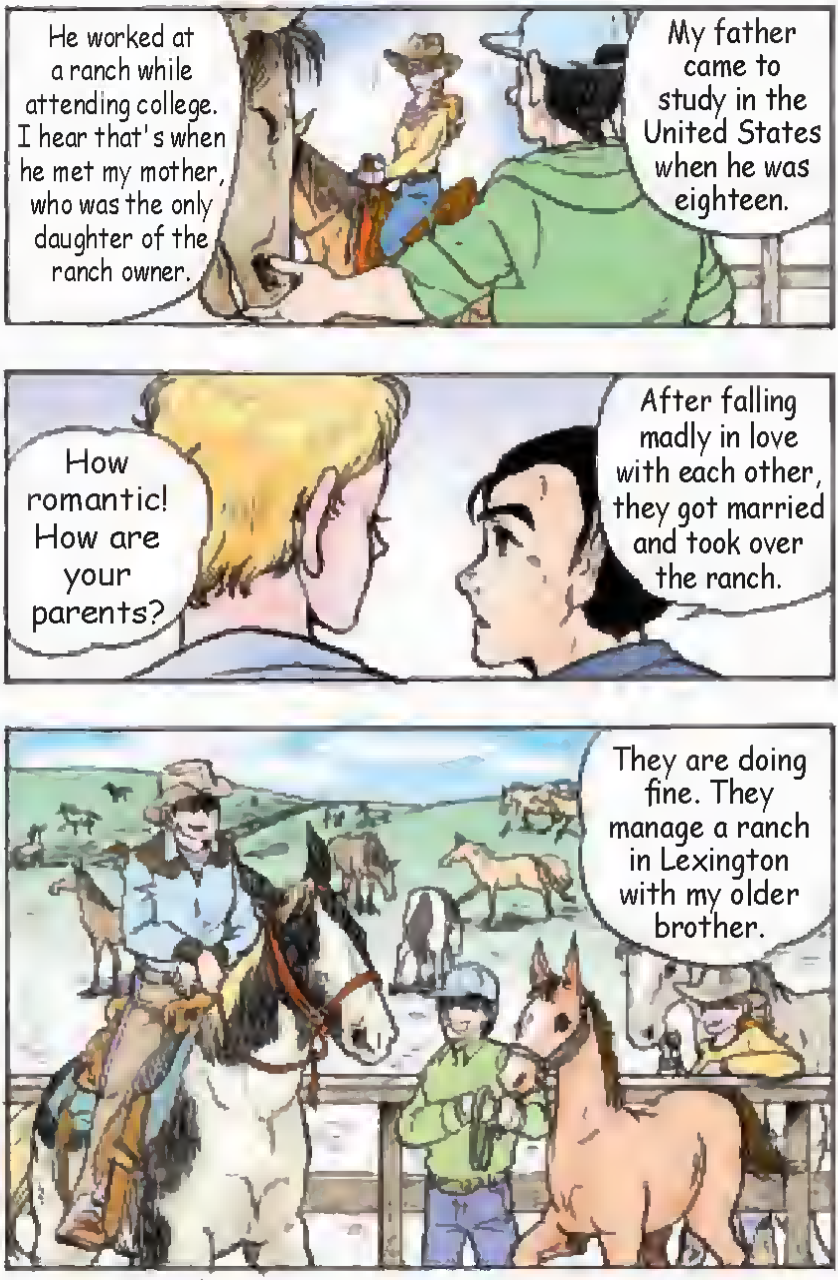


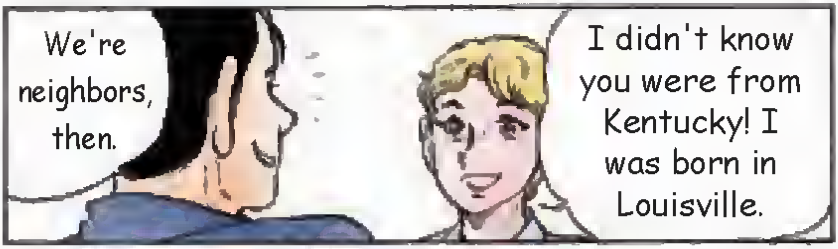

Um ...
How are you? Have you gotten used to the life on board?

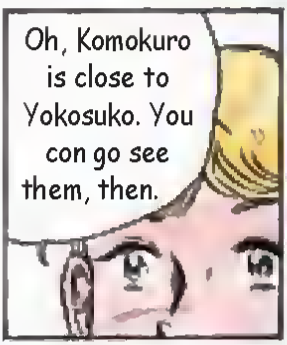
Sigh

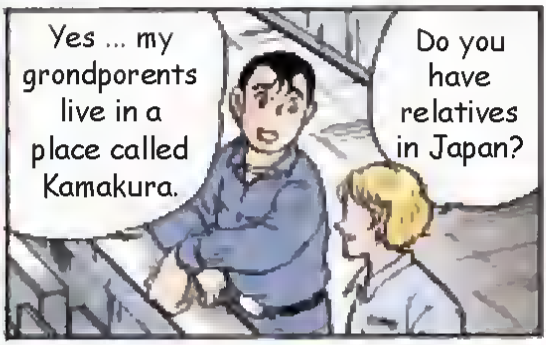

Well ...
?

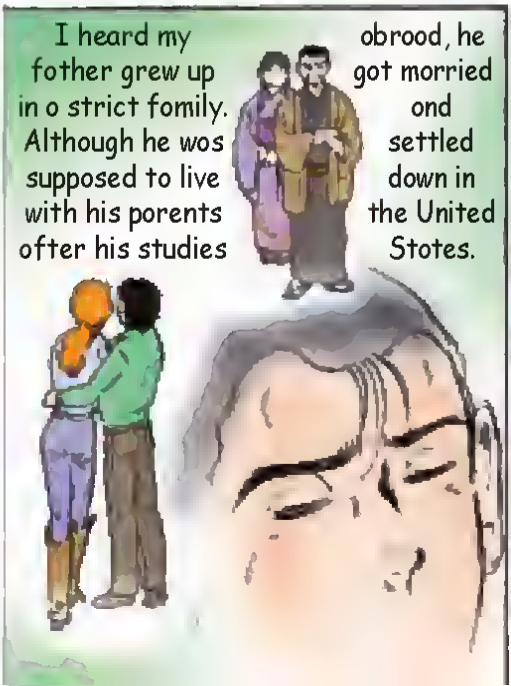
No matter what I do, it doesn't seem to go right.
GW is going to Japan of all places ...
It really doesn't matter to me where I'm stationed, but ...
You didn't ask for this job then?
Don't you like Japan? You're part Japanese right?
Yes, my father is Japanese.

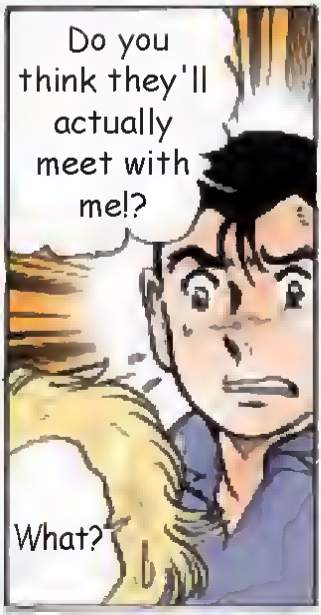

He worked at a ranch while attending college. I hear that's when he met my mother, who was the only daughter of the ranch owner.
My father came to study in the United States when he was eighteen.
How romantic! How are your parents?
After falling madly in love with each other, they got married and took over the ranch.
They are doing fine. They manage a ranch in Lexington with my older brother.

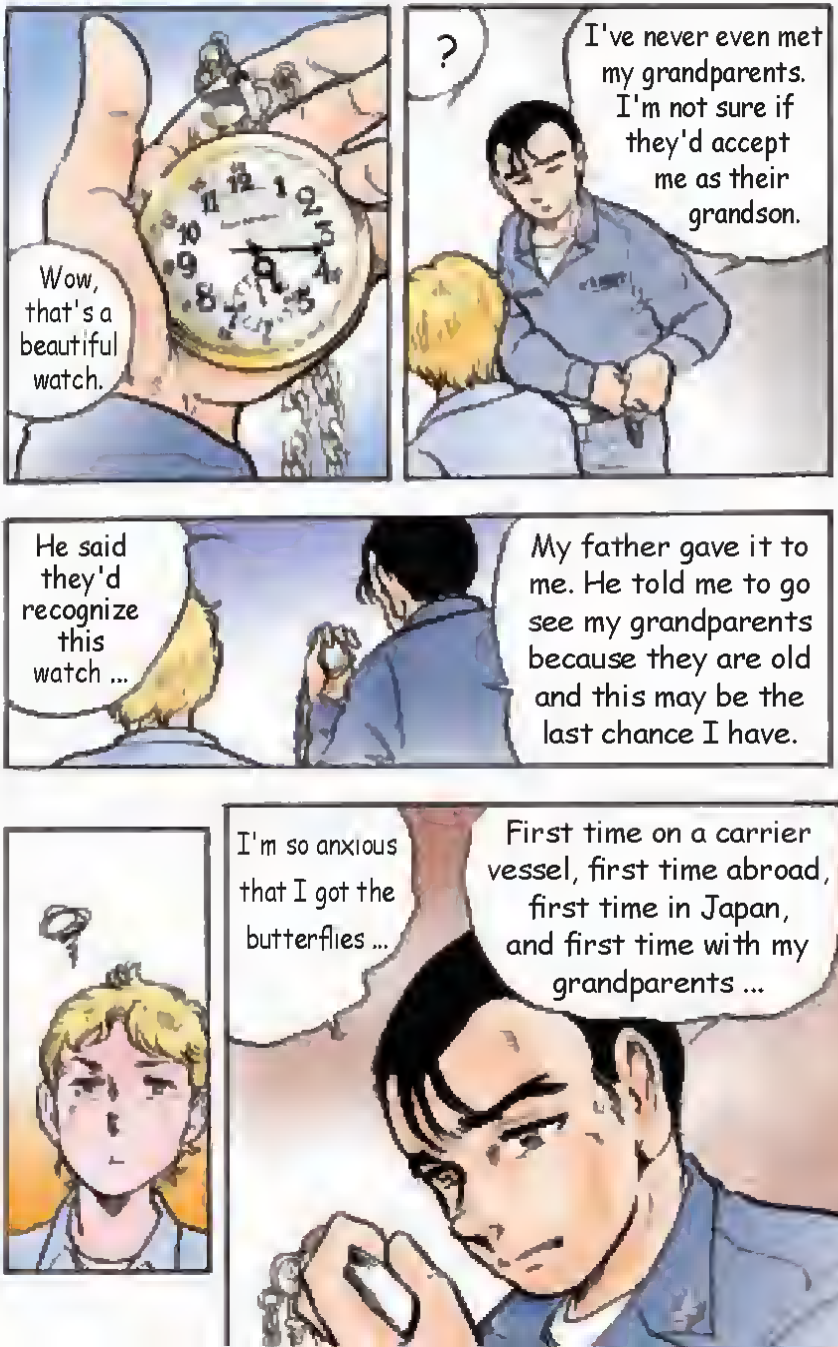

We're neighbors, then.
I didn't know you were from Kentucky! I was born in Louisville.


Oh, Komokuro is close to Yokosuko. You con go see them, then.


Yes ... my grondporents live in a place called Kamakura.
Do you have relatives in Japan?

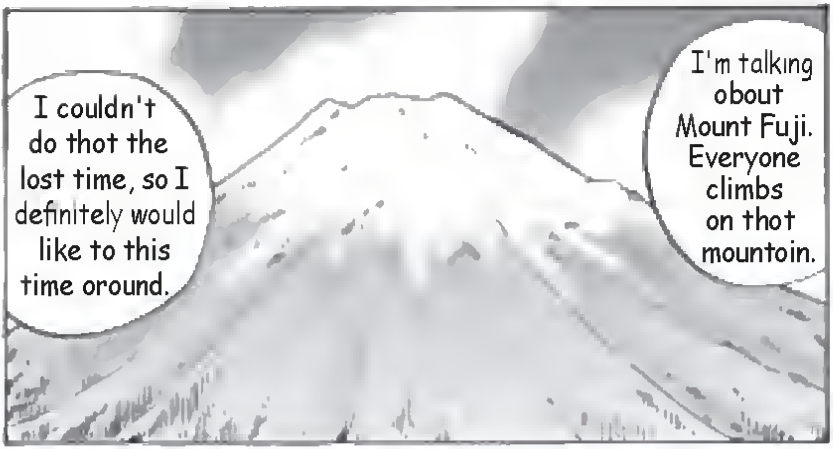

I heard my fother grew up in o strict fomily. Although he wos supposed to live with his porents ofter his studies
obrood, he got morried ond settled down in the United Stotes.


Do you think they'll actually meet with me!?
What?


Wow, that's a beautiful watch.
?
I've never even met my grandparents. I'm not sure if they'd accept me as their grandson.
He said they'd recognize this watch ...
My father gave it to me. He told me to go see my grandparents because they are old and this may be the last chance I have.
I'm so anxious that I got the butterflies ...
First time on a carrier vessel, first time abroad, first time in Japan, and first time with my grandparents ...

Oof.
Petty Officer Third Class Jack O'Hara! Stop getting hung up on little things!!
Do you have goals?
Goals ... huh?
First, have some goals. Accomplish them one by one and you'll soon find your next step in life.
Yes, I have three.

One of them is the pin. It's been my dreom to weor thot shiny pin on my chest.
You hove to build experience in vorious deportments within the vessel.
Then, you take an exam. If you pass, you get a pin.
I intend to get one by the time we reoch Jopon.
What's the second one?
That would be Fujisan.
FUJI ... ?

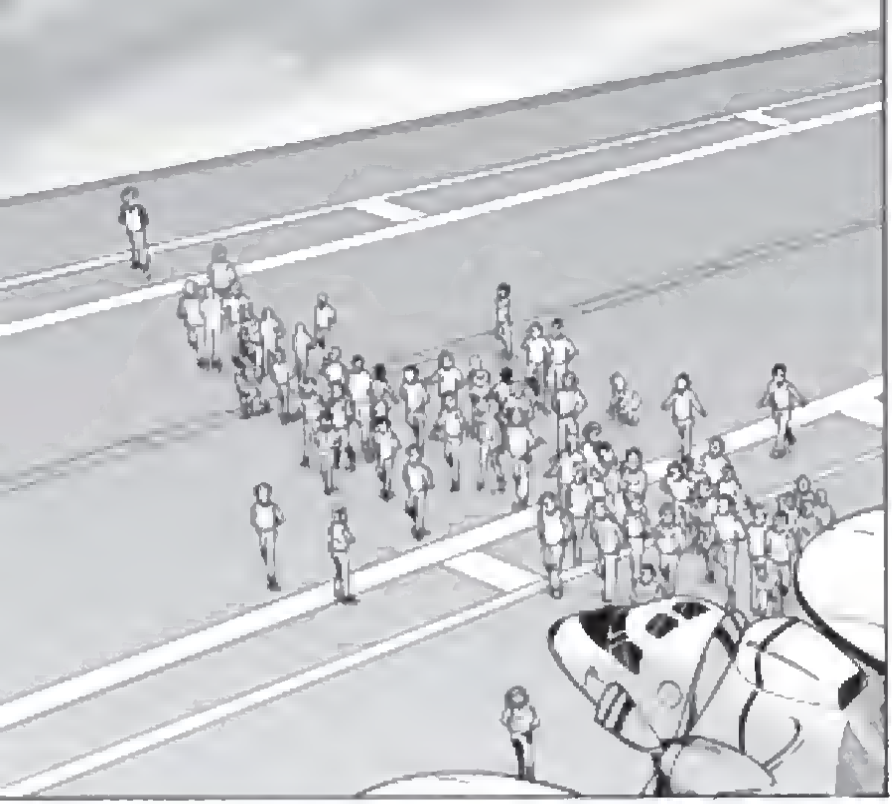

I couldn't do thot the lost time, so I definitely would like to this time oround.
I'm talking obout Mount Fuji. Everyone climbs on thot mountoin.

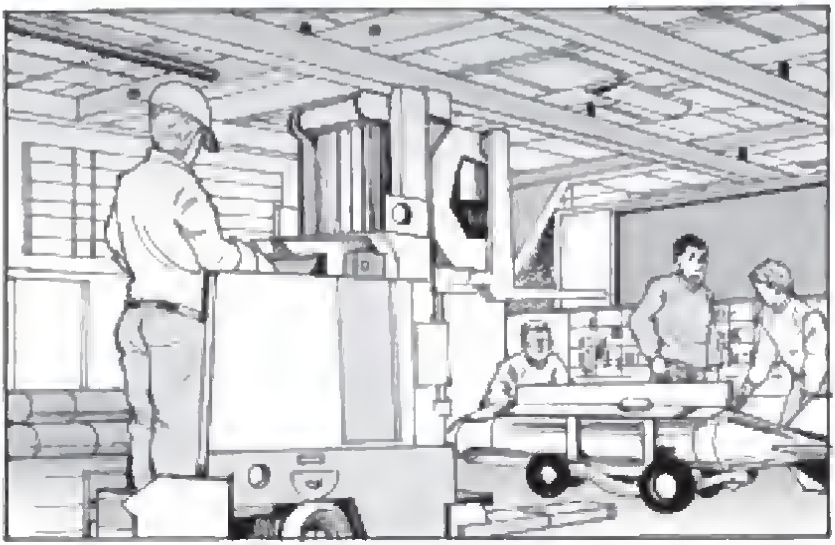
Huh?

Um, OK ... ond whot obout the third?
I wont o bowl of ramen in pork bone broth!

They are so good!
I've olready hod soy-souce-flovored noodle soup ond gyozo dumplings.

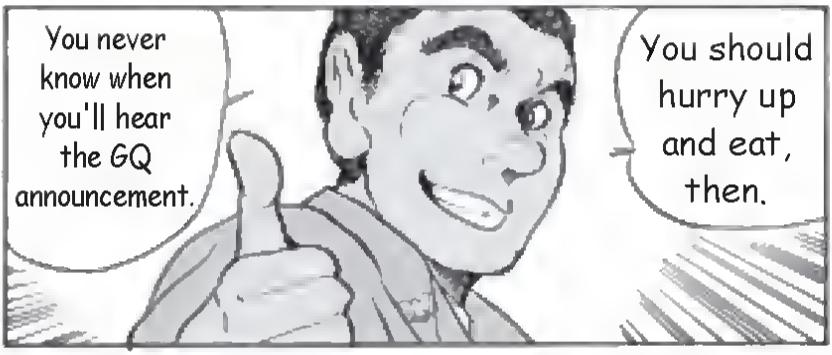
Rumors had it that there's pork bone in it, or that it's high in calorie ...
I didn't eat the ramen in pork bone broth ...
I see ...
Anyway, we still have a long voyage ahead of us.
...
...





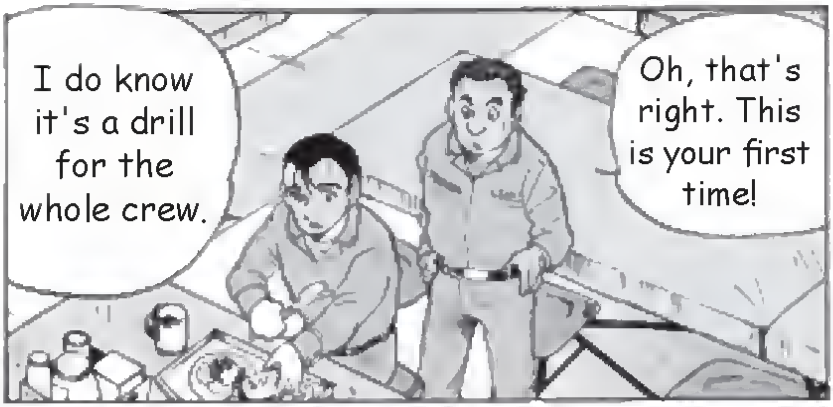
Goals, huh ...
!

No.
Hey Jack! Haven't you had lunch yet?

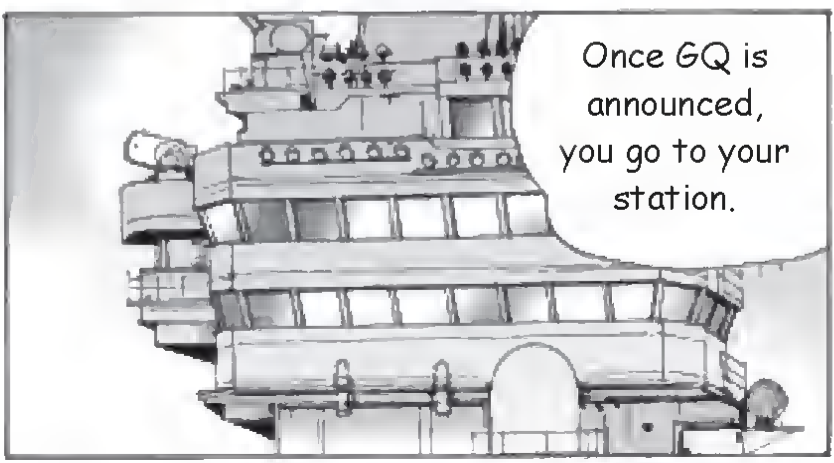

You never know when you'll hear the GQ announcement.
You should hurry up and eat, then.

A GQ?

You did hear there'll be a GQ this afternoon, right?


I do know it's a drill for the whole crew.
Oh, that's right. This is your first time!

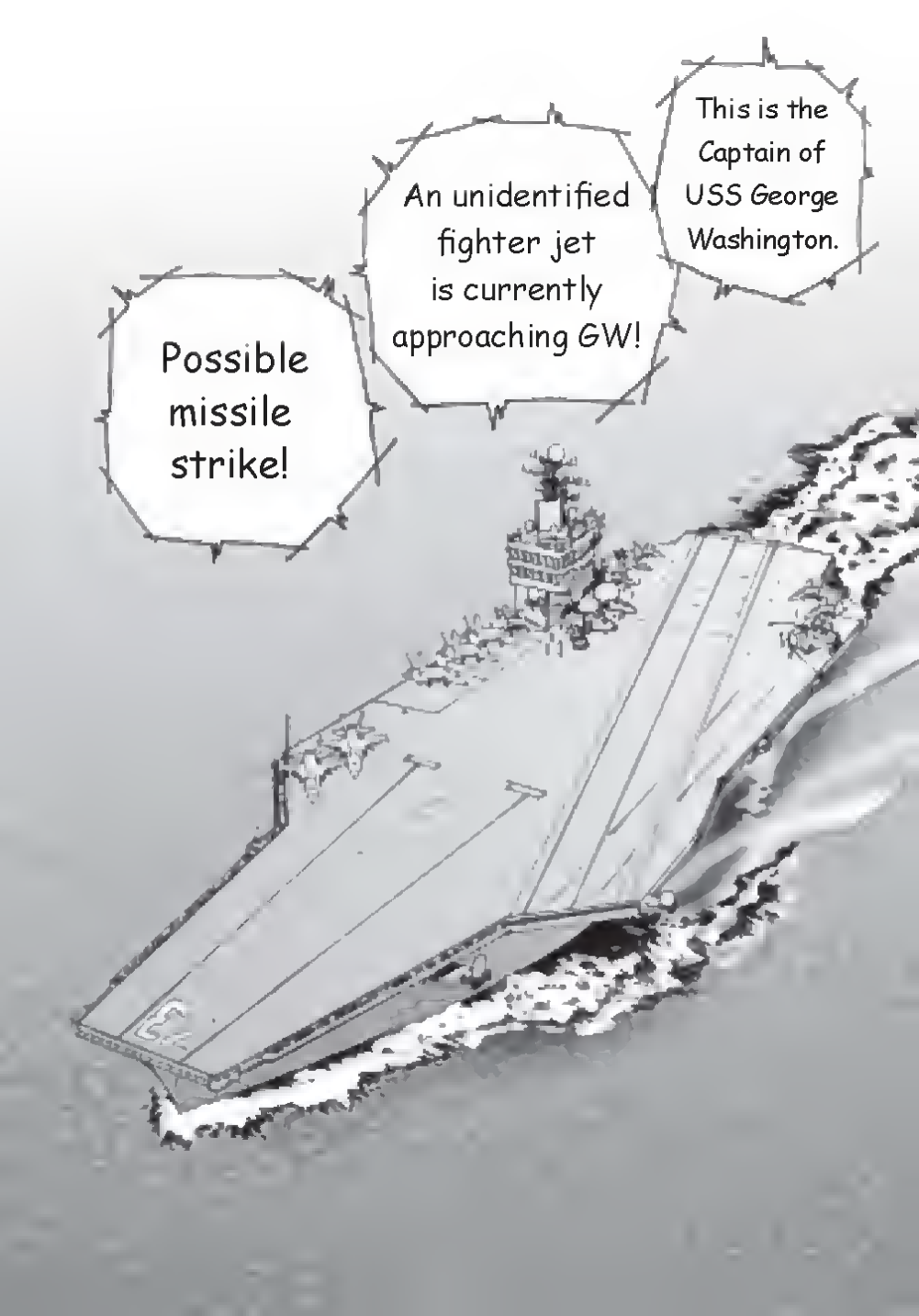
A GQ is indeed a drill using the whole vessel. We'll be trained so we'll know what to do in which situation.

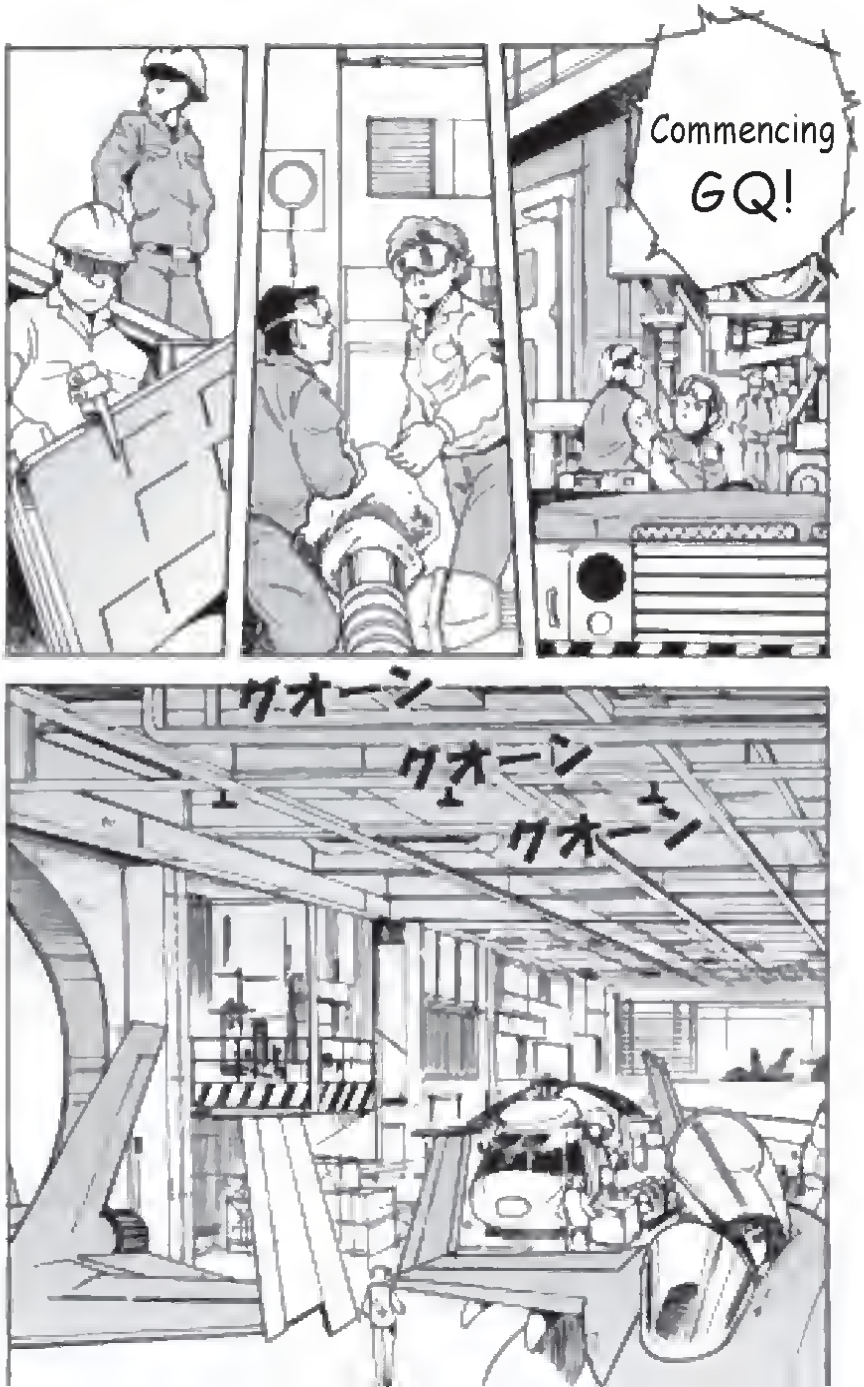

Once GQ is announced, you go to your station.

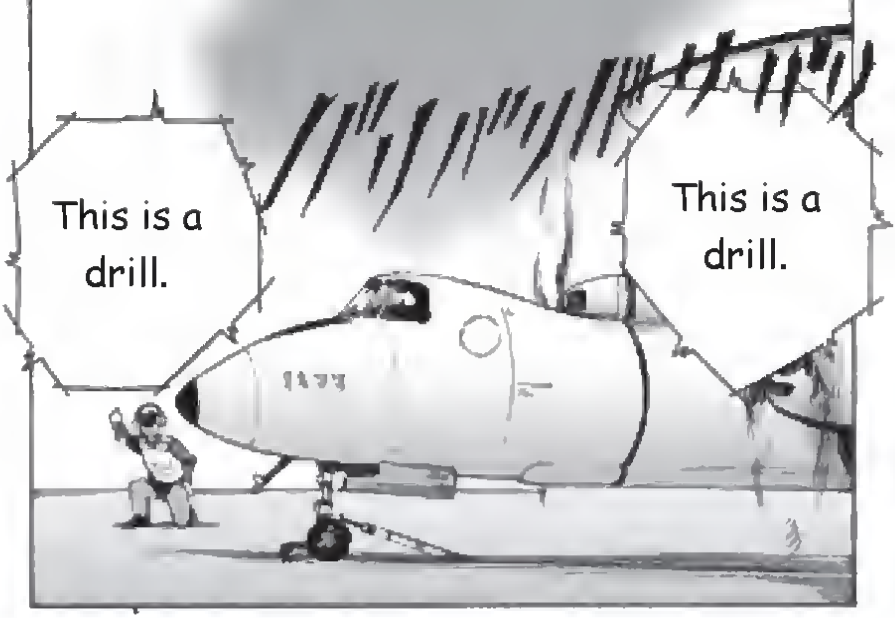
It might last only for two hours, or it might go on until night ...
The question is ... we just don't know when the drill will end.

It started suddenly.

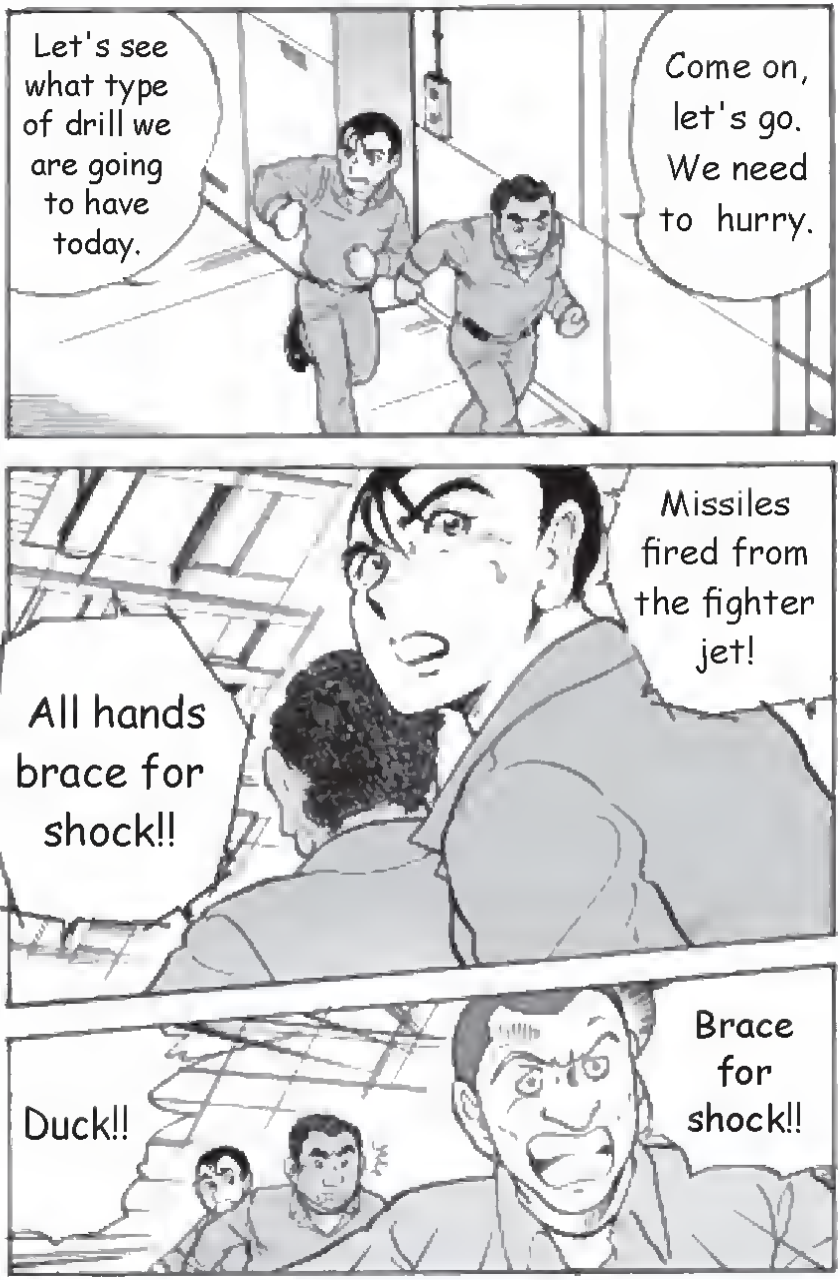
Ha, ha ...


This is the Captain of USS George Washington.
An unidentified fighter jet is currently approaching GW!
Possible missile strike!


Commencing GQ!
クオーン
クオーン
クオーン


This is a drill.
This is a drill.

All hands man your battle stations!


Let's see what type of drill we are going to have today.
Come on, let's go. We need to hurry.
Missiles fired from the fighter jet!
All hands brace for shock!!
Brace for shock!!
Duck!!

Missile has hit Hangar Bay 2 There's a fire!!

!
Oh no, this is not good ...

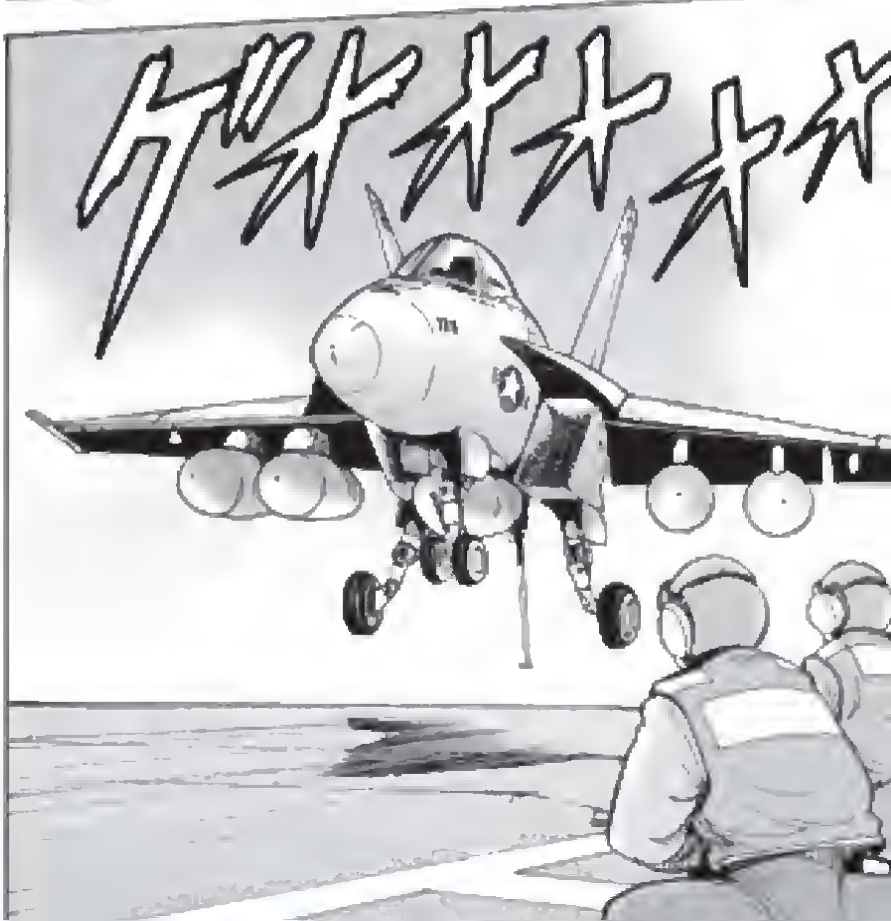
... to be a seasoned crew menber of this ship!!

My goal is ...

Can you get the hose.
I'll get the fire extinguisher!
I'll survive all the drills and I'll become a seasoned sailor by the time we reach Japan!!
All right, I'm going to extinguish the fire!
Hey, what are you doing!?

Didn't you hear the announcement!?
Yes Sir, I did!
This is the Second Hangar.
This is where the missile hit!
You were just killed in action!!
What!?

From then on...
I played dead very well.
I could switch with you.
@#!#! you're heavy.
Hey, a corpse shouldn't talk.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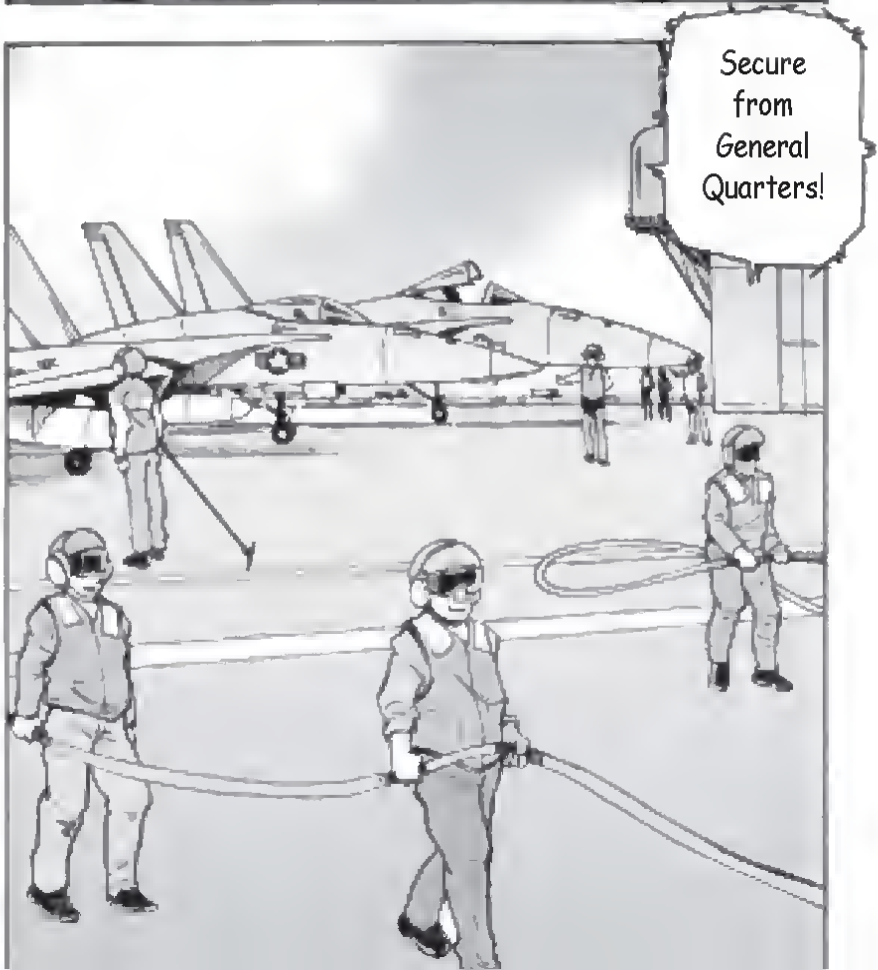
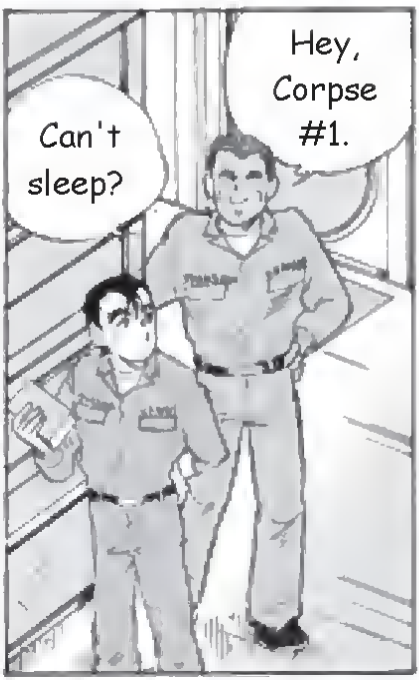
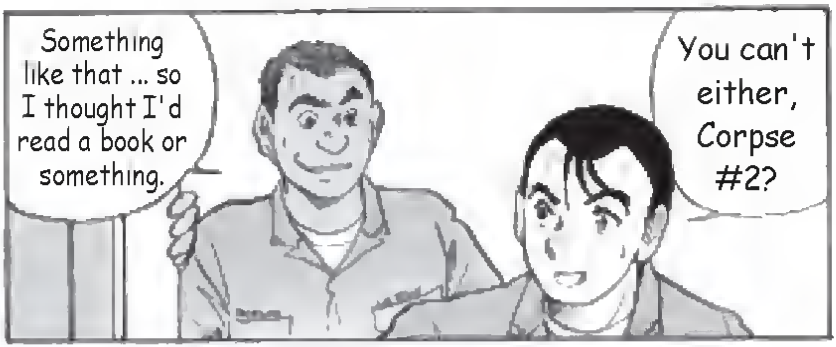

Secure from General Quarters!

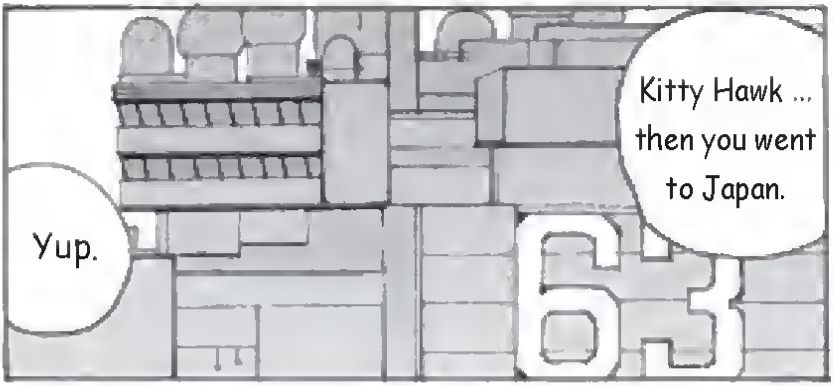

Hey, Corpse #1.
Can't sleep?

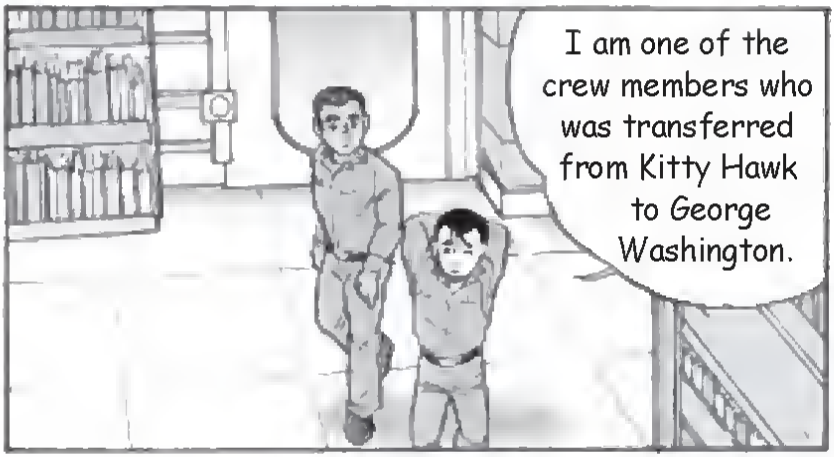

Something like that ... so I thought I'd read a book or something.
You can't either, Corpse #2?

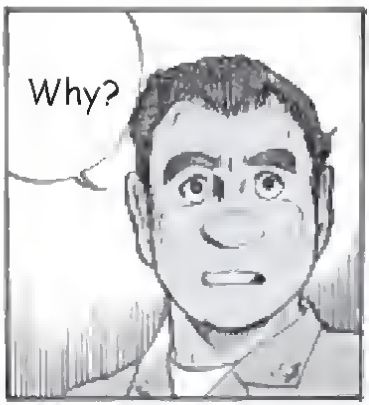
Man, I thought I could do well in that GQ.
Don't worry about it so much. You're definitely making progress.

You don't get seasick anymore.
Really?

Why do you look like a seasoned sailor? I mean, we're not much different in age and we're the same rank!
I've been meaning to ask you this, but ...
Five years!
Bcause I AM a seasoned sailor.
The first carrier I was assigned to was Kitty Hawk.
I've been on ships for five years now, you know.

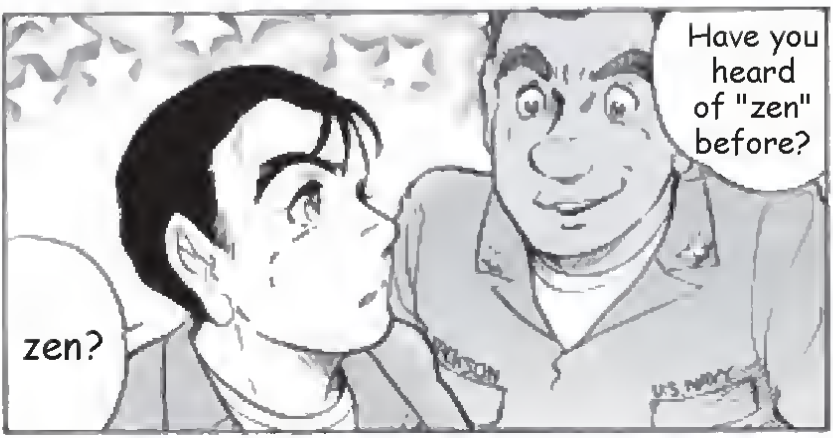

Kitty Hawk ... then you went to Japan.
Yup.


I am one of the crew members who was transferred from Kitty Hawk to George Washington.


Why?

That must have been rough.

Japan is great!
The food is good, and the people are kind and warm.
The country's full of state-of-the-art culture, history, and traditions.

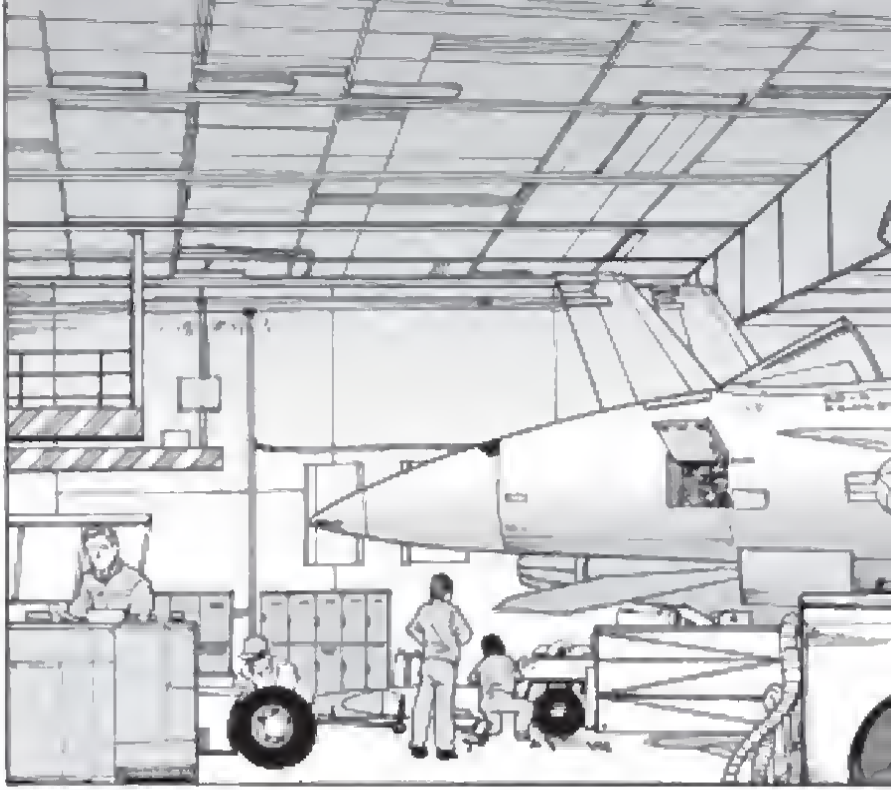

Have you heard of "zen" before?
zen?

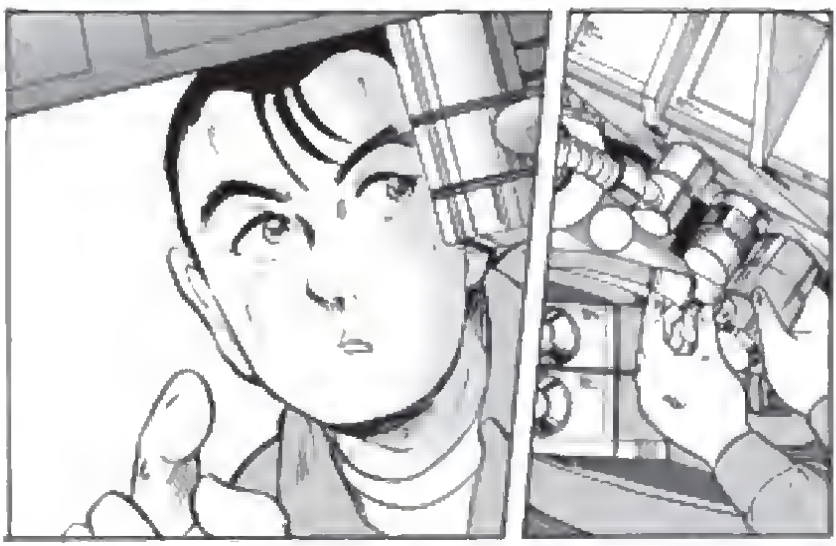
You face the garden at a temple and meditate.
... and then?

But ... it's kind of neat ...

Ha ha!
My legs go numb.

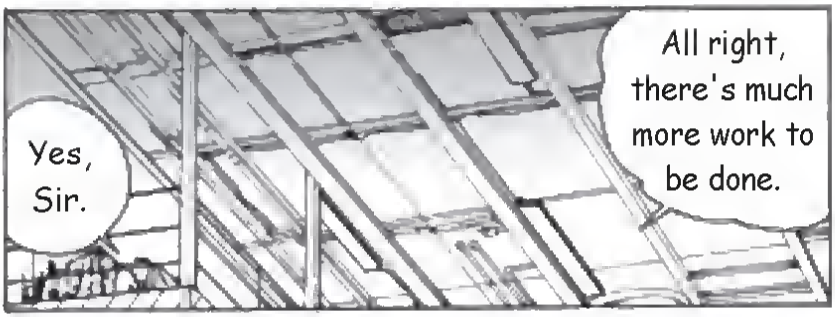
Do you know Kamakura?
My grandparents live there ... though I've never met them before.
You mean Kamakura ... that place is like my backyard.
Why do you ask?

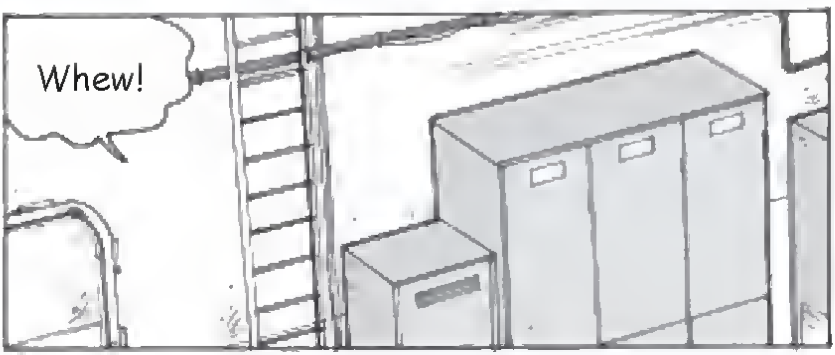




I'm finished here, Chief.
Oh, that was quick.
Help me over here, then.
Yes, Sir.

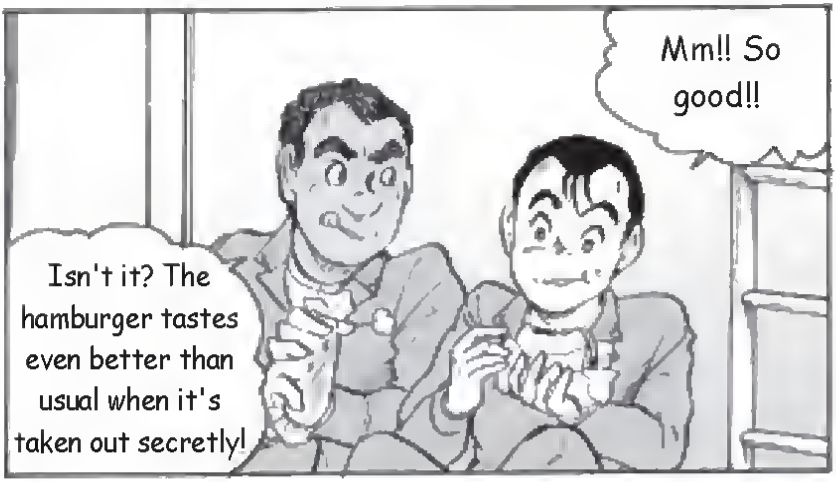
OK, I'm done here. I don't think these parts need to be changed.
O'HARA
U.S.
Can you reach it?
Yes, I'm almost there ...
The screw is loose at the joint.
You know, you're pretty handy.
Hmm ...


All right, there's much more work to be done.
Yes, Sir.


Whew!

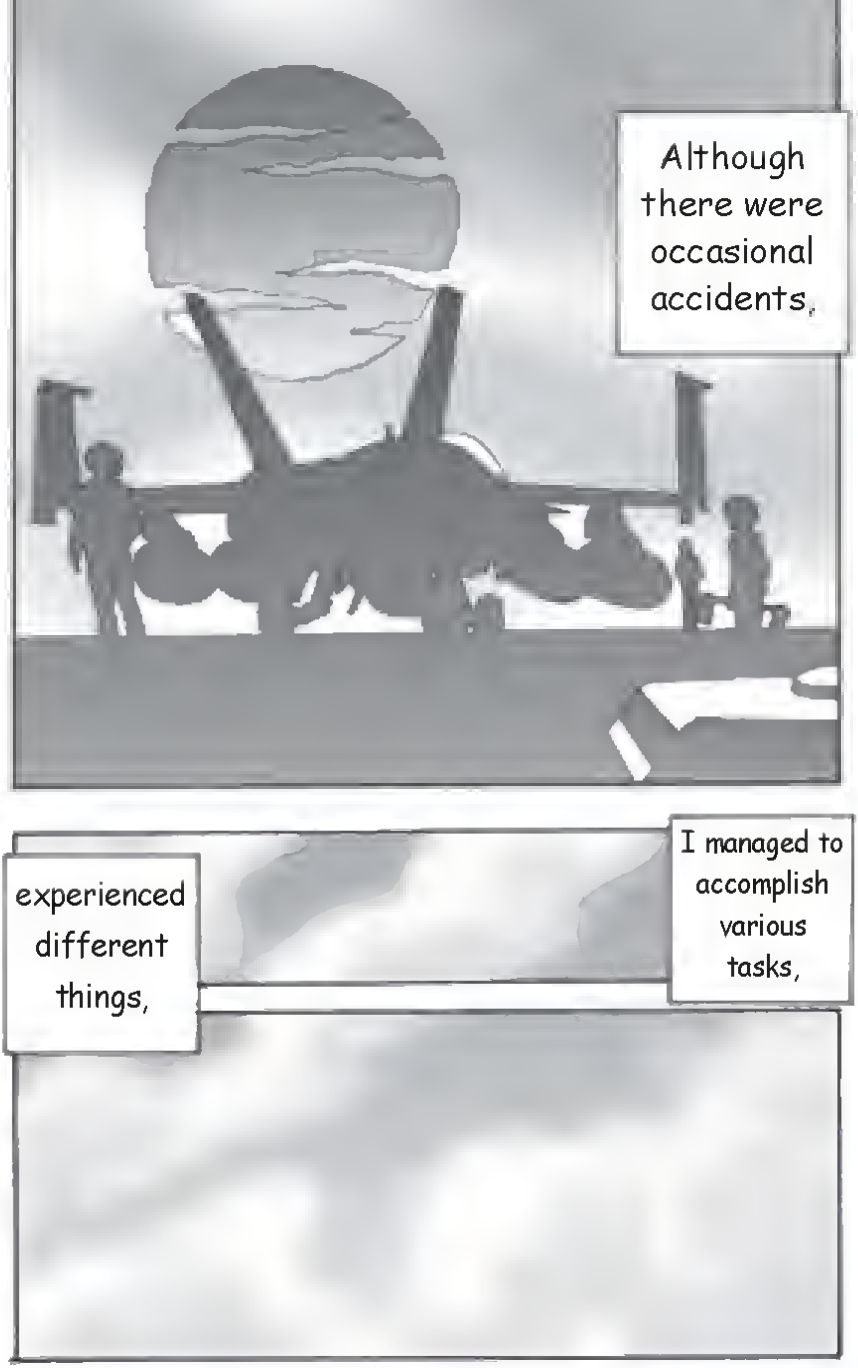
Man, am I hungry!
Working a twelve-hour shift is definitely tough!
Hey!
You're working hard.
Here, have a snack.

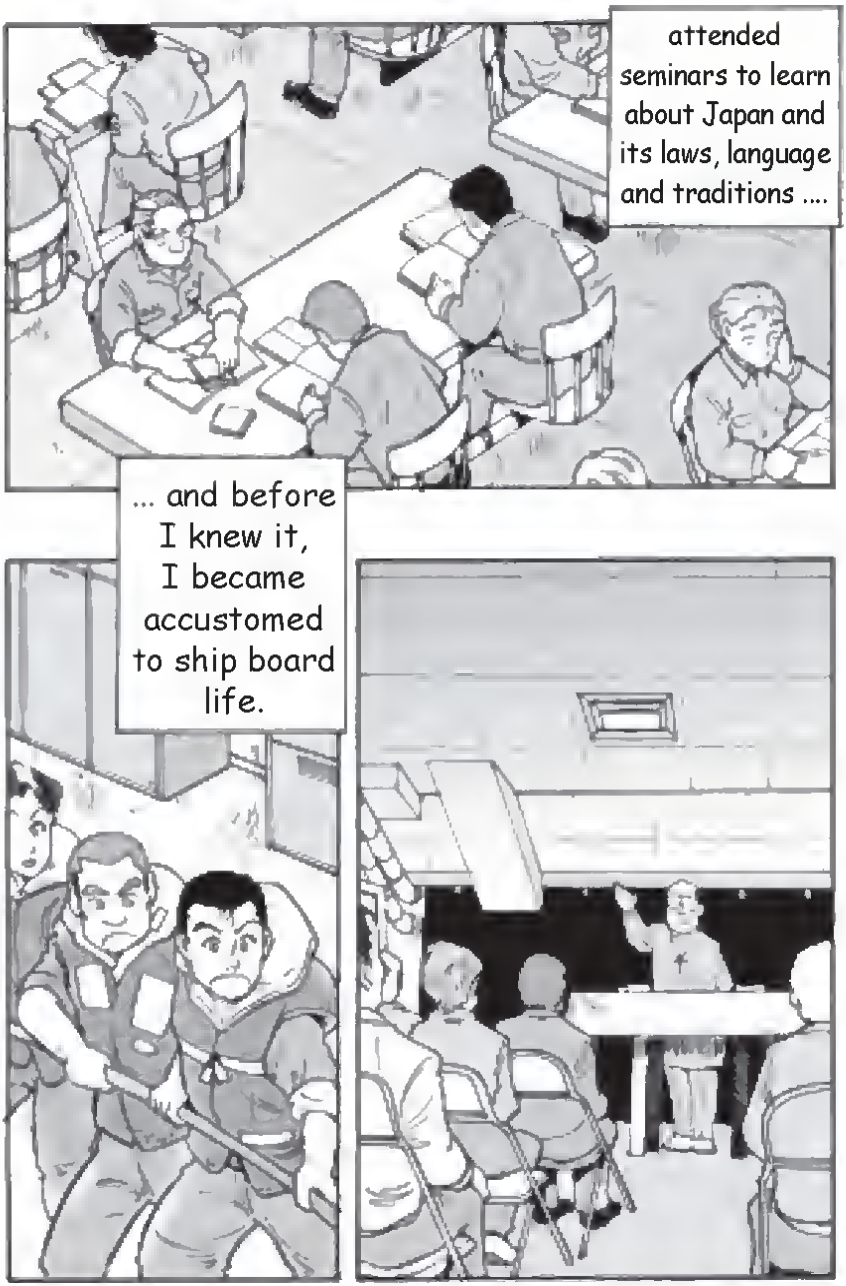
Wow, how did you get this? You're not supposed to take food out, are you?
Don't be such a stick-in-the-mud.
But you'll definitely get in trouble if The MAA (Master At Arms) finds you.
I had no choice! I'm too busy to eat anything.
Same goes for you, doesn't it? Come on, eat it!

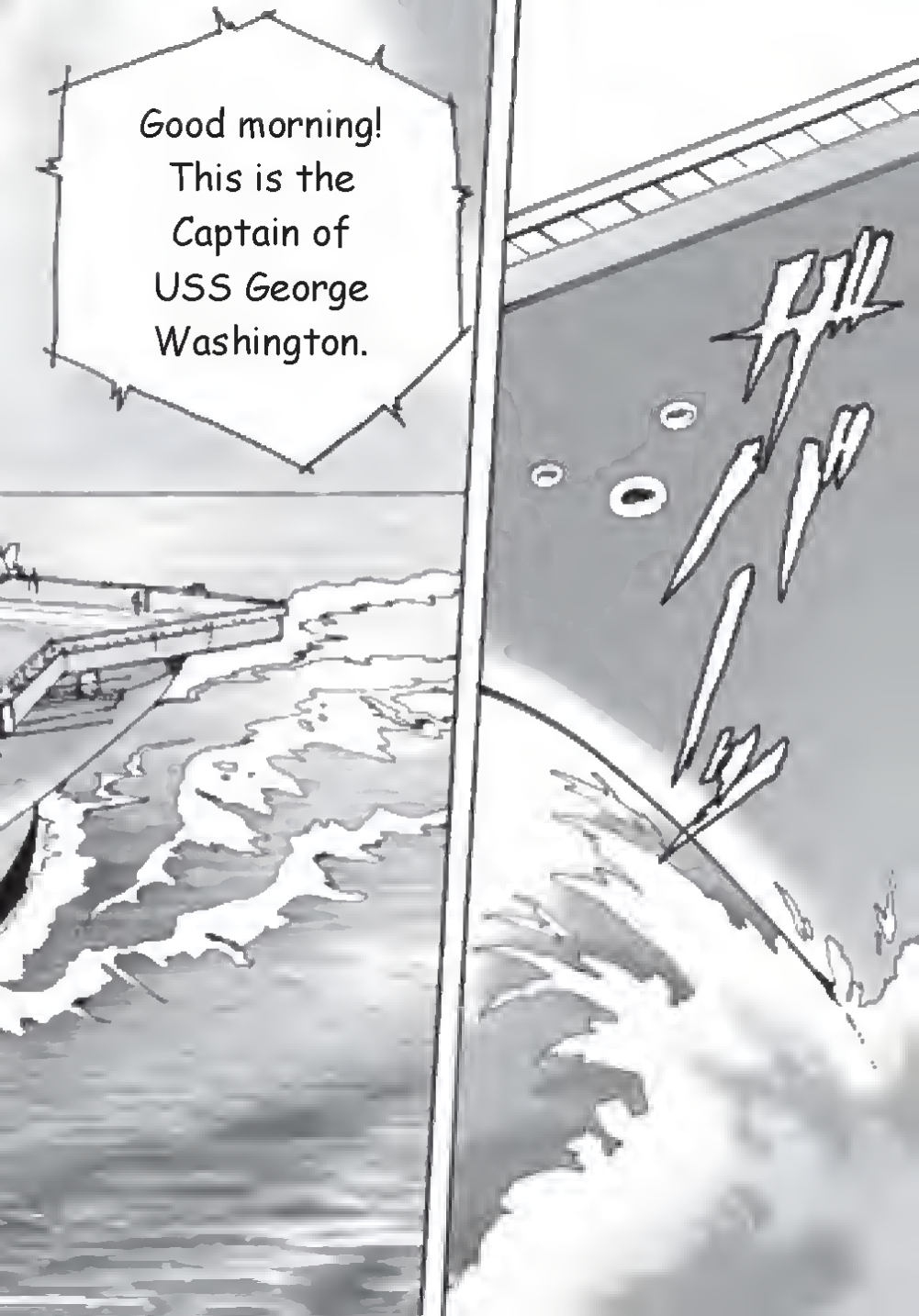

Mm!! So good!!
Isn't it? The hamburger tastes even better than usual when it's taken out secretly!

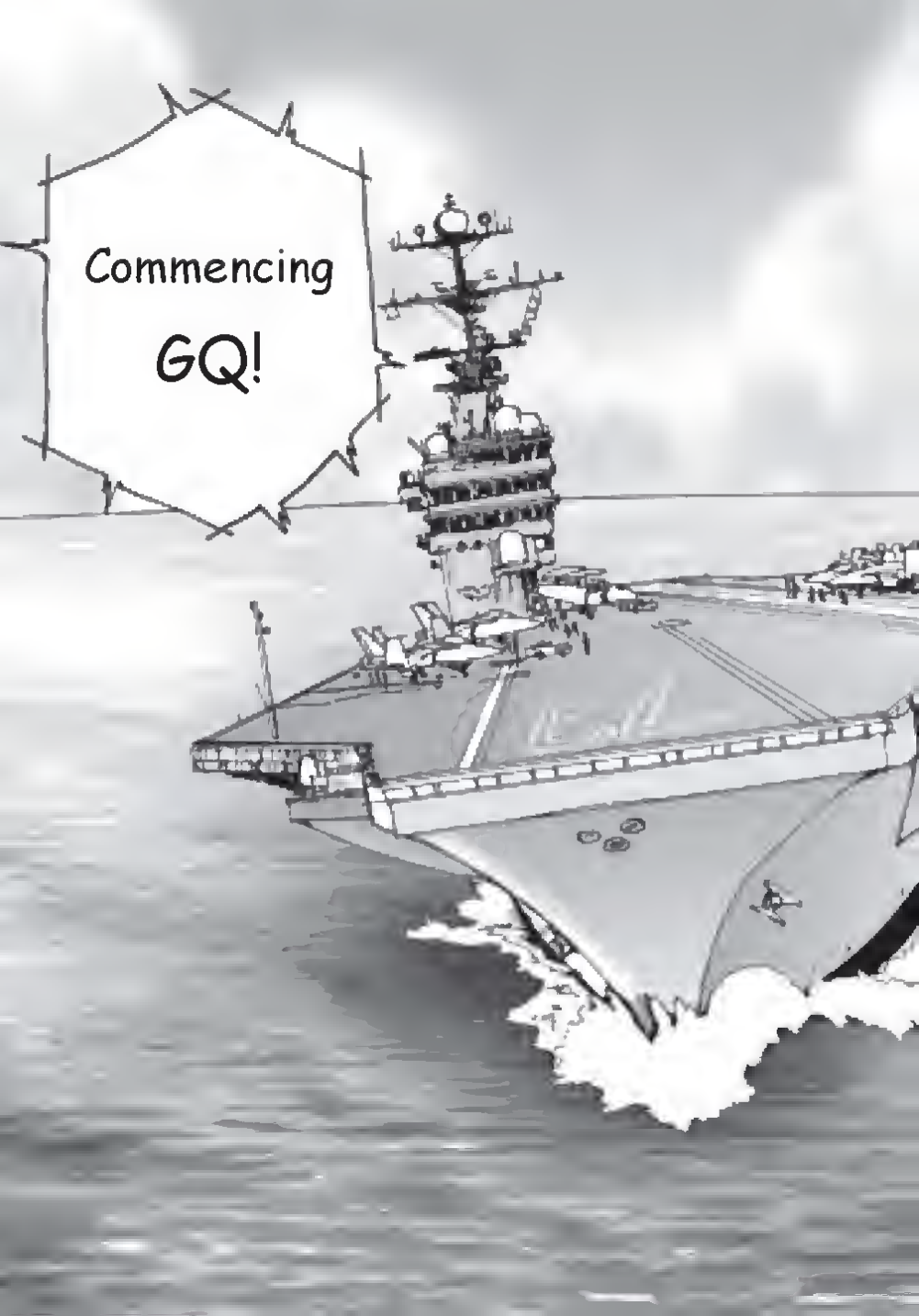
Grab it quickly, pretend to eat it, and hide it.
Then I casually walk out with a poker face.
Getting this stuff still requires a certain technique, you know.

It'd be heavenly if I had a drink on top of this!
MAA _ Officers who maintain order onboard ship.
Would you like to take a peek into hell while you're at it?


Although there were occasional accidents,
I managed to accomplish various tasks,
experienced different things,

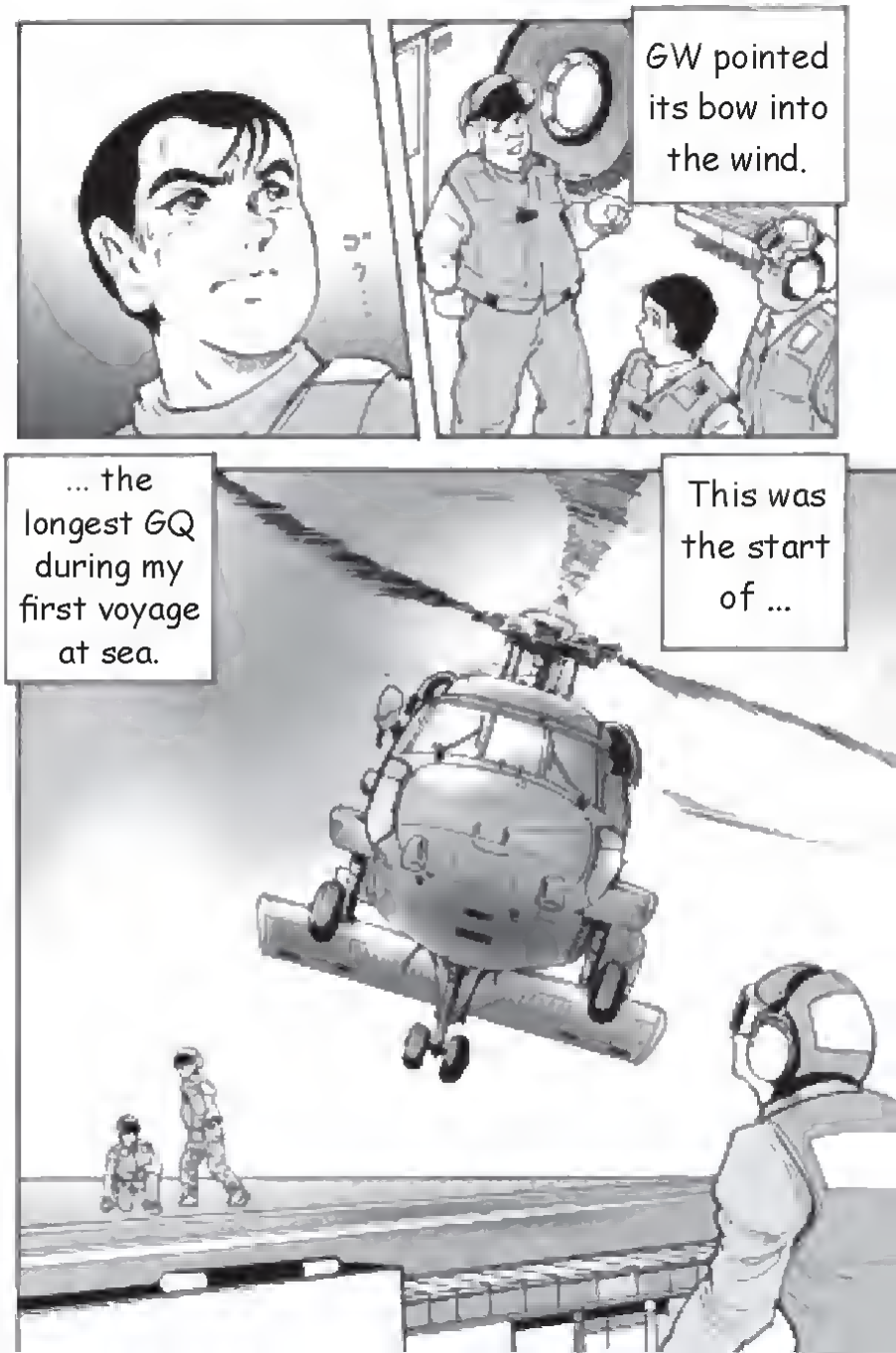

attended seminars to learn about Japan and its laws, language and traditions ....
... and before I knew it, I became accustomed to ship board life.


Good morning! This is the Captain of USS George Washington.

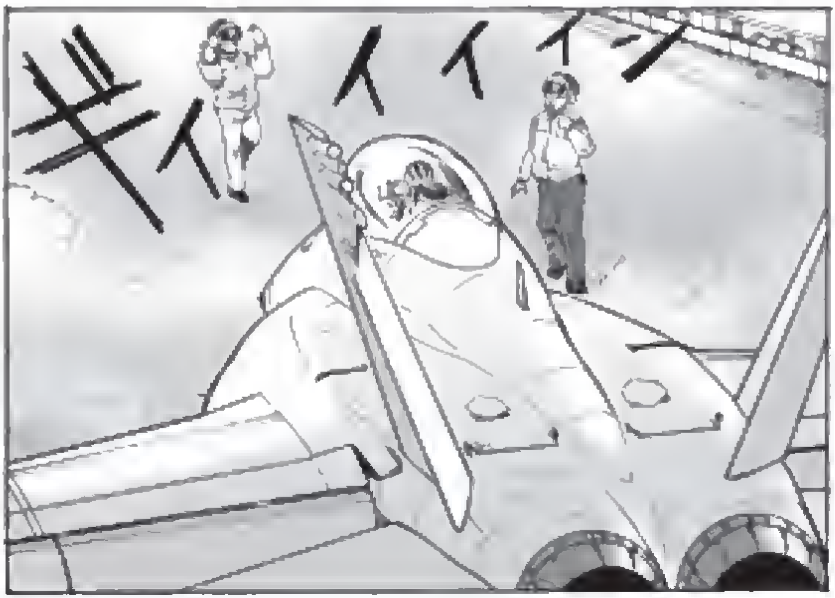

Commencing
GQ!

ヴォーン
A number of fighter jets of undisclosed origin have been spotted, heading toward GW.
ヴォーン
Possible missile strike.
ヴォーン
All hands man battle stations!

This is a drill.
This is a drill !!

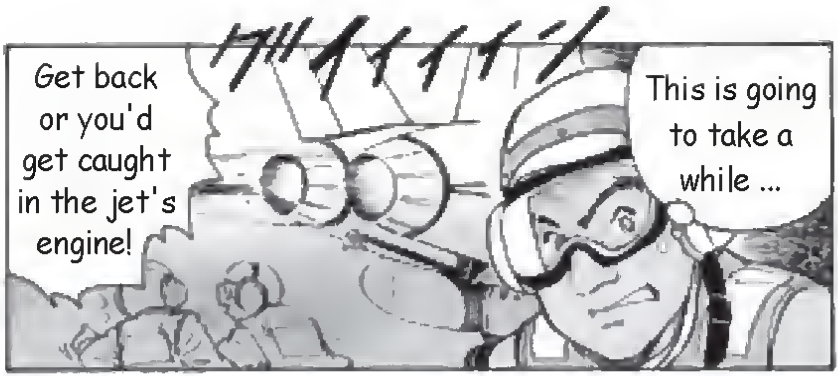

GW pointed its bow into the wind.
This was the start of ...
... the longest GQ during my first voyage at sea.

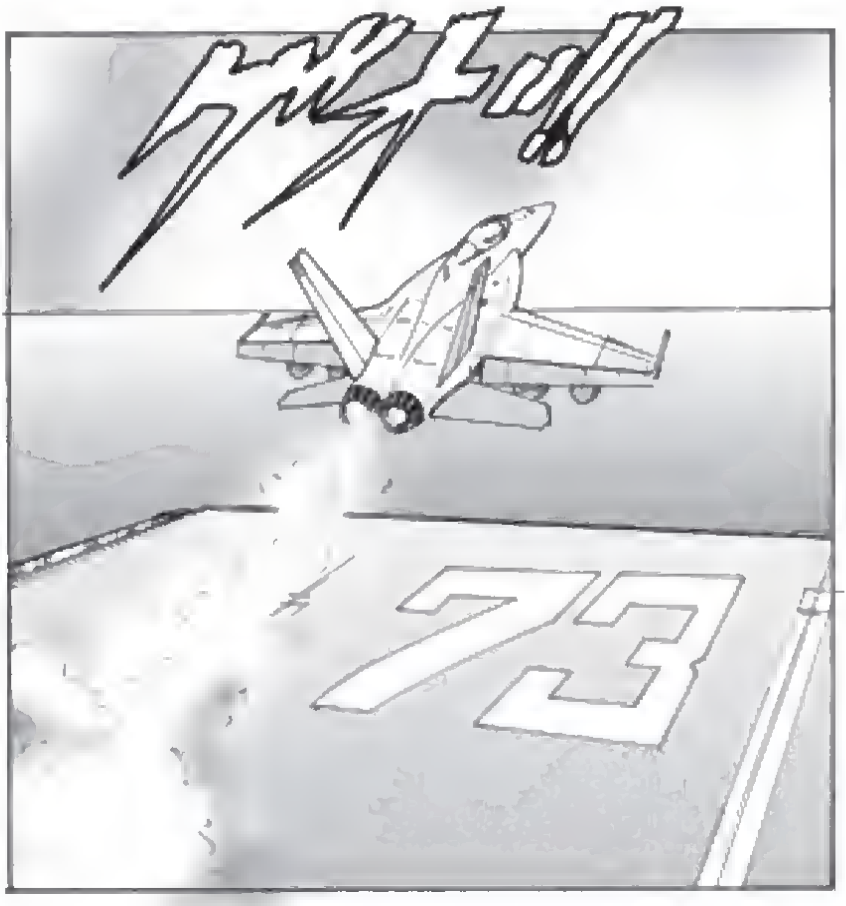
ゲオオオ…

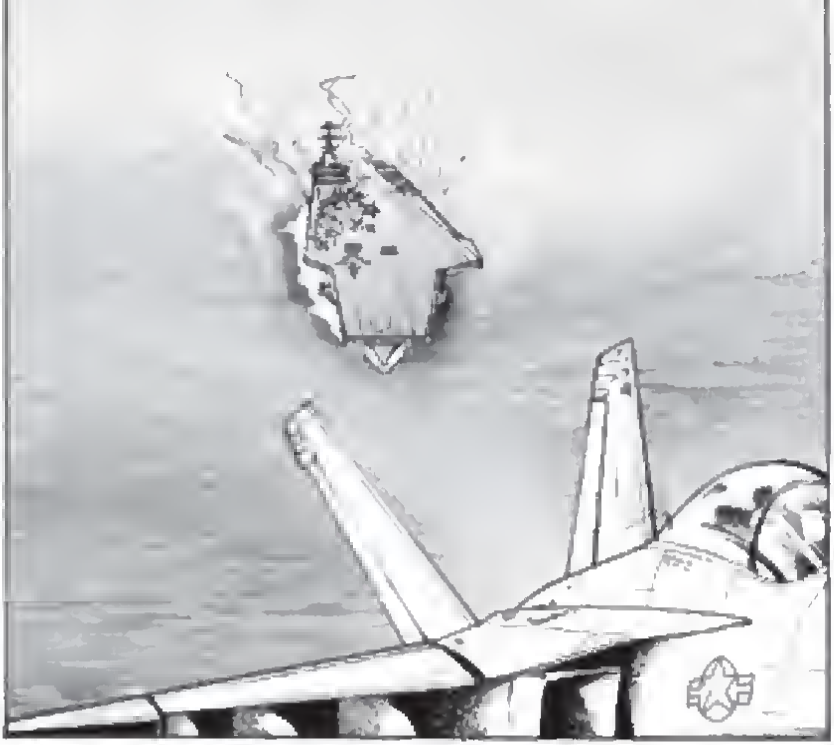

イイイイ

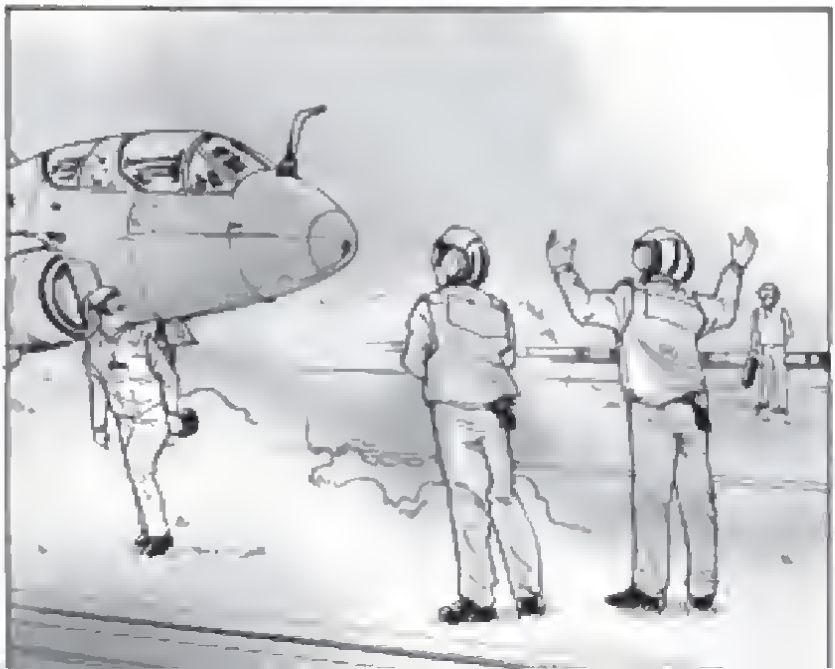
キィィィン
Did you hear that? We need to extinguish the fire .
Missile has hit the back of the flight deck portside!
Oh, no!

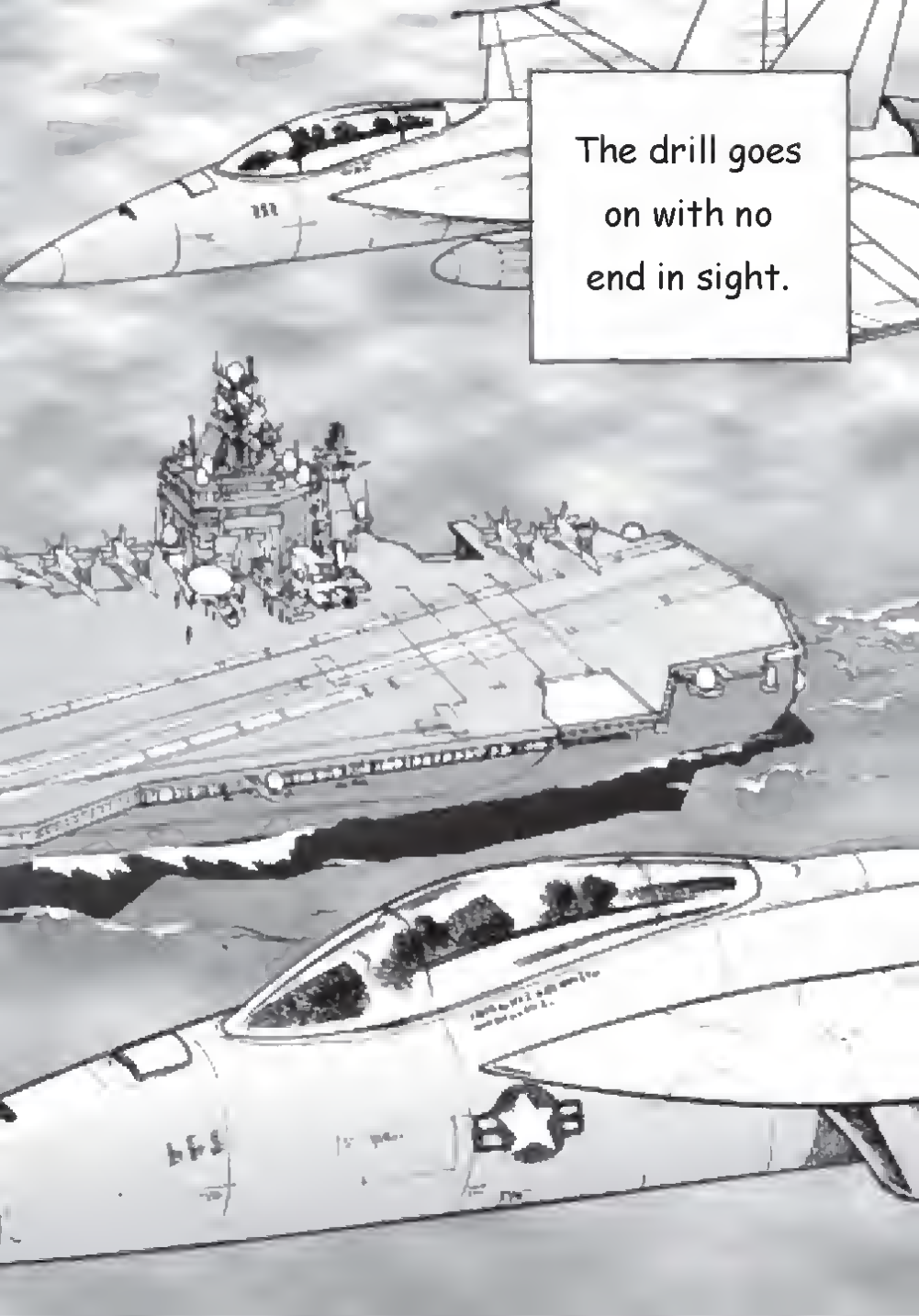
Where's the medical team!?
Carry out the injured!
!
Missile has hit the Third Hangar! All hands to the pump and extinguish fire!


Get back or you'd get caught in the jet's engine!
This is going to take a while ...

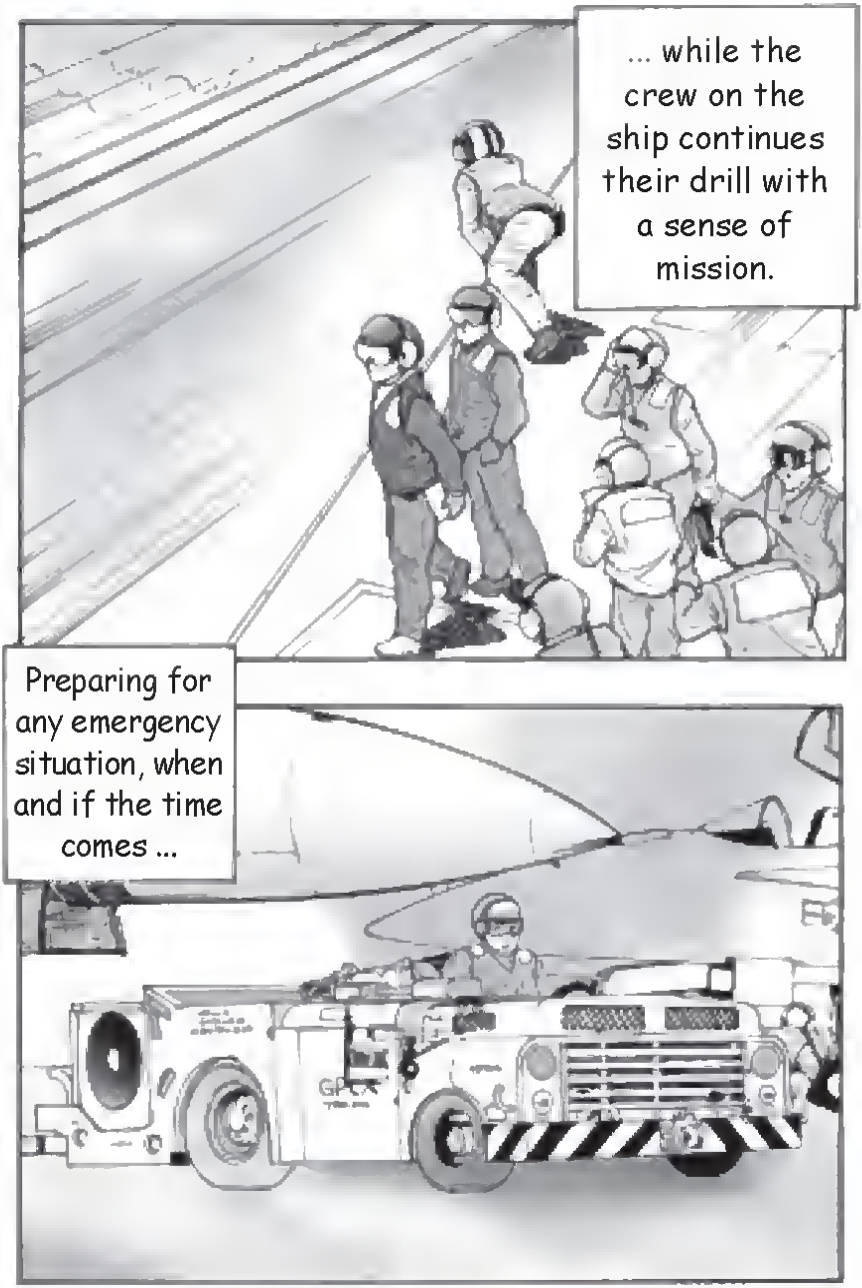

Take off
73

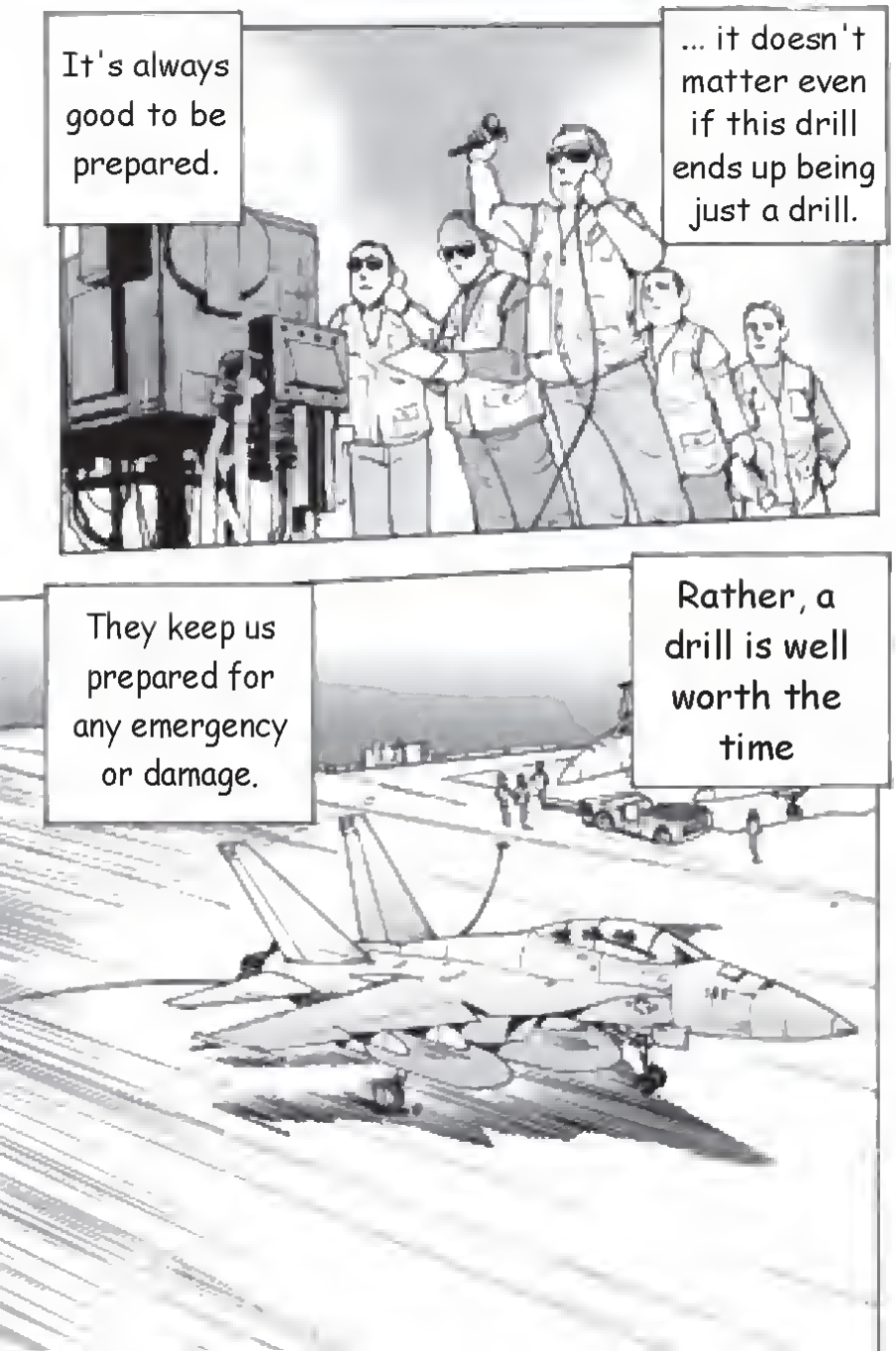


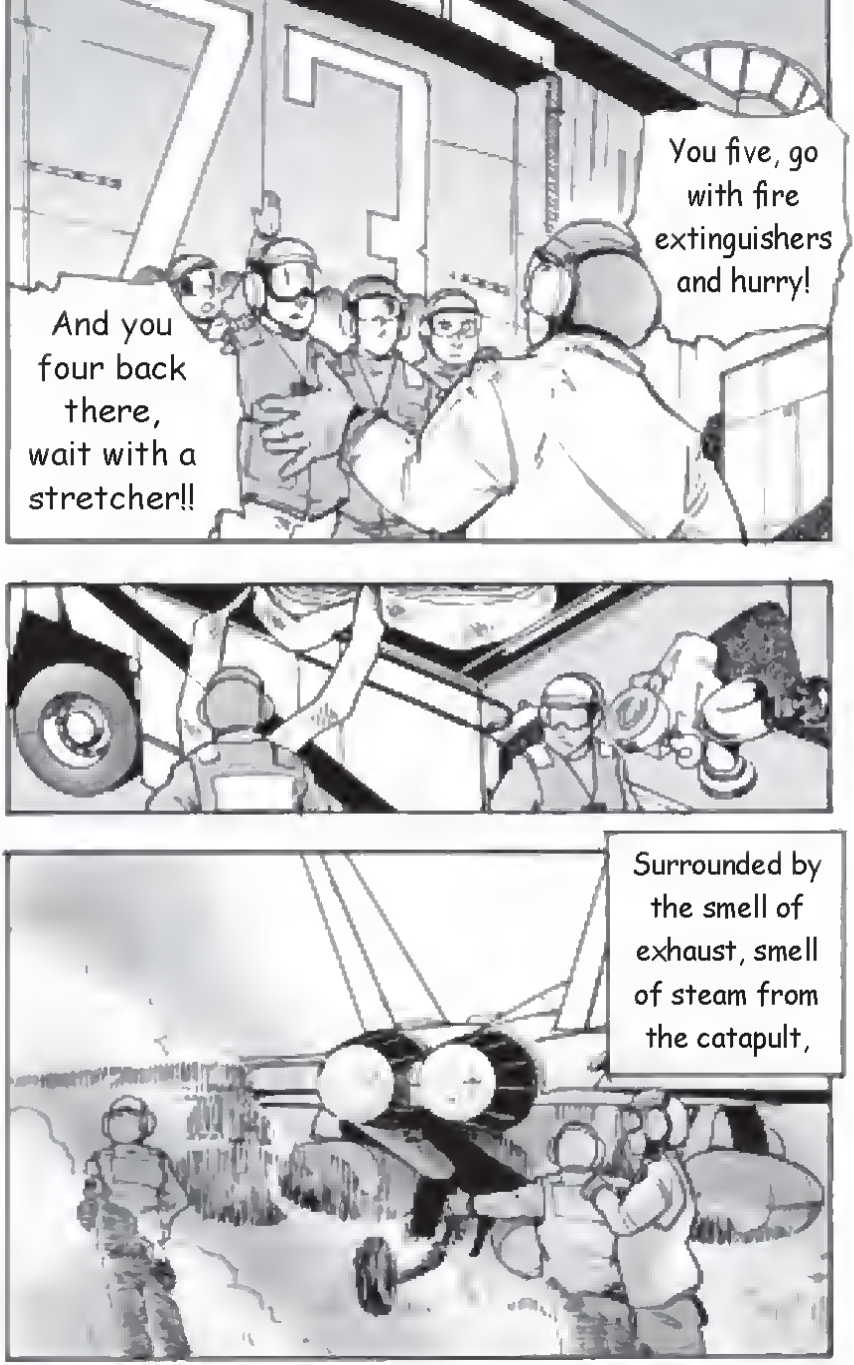



The drill goes on with no end in sight.

Pilots take off in their fighter jets, then return to land on George Washington ...

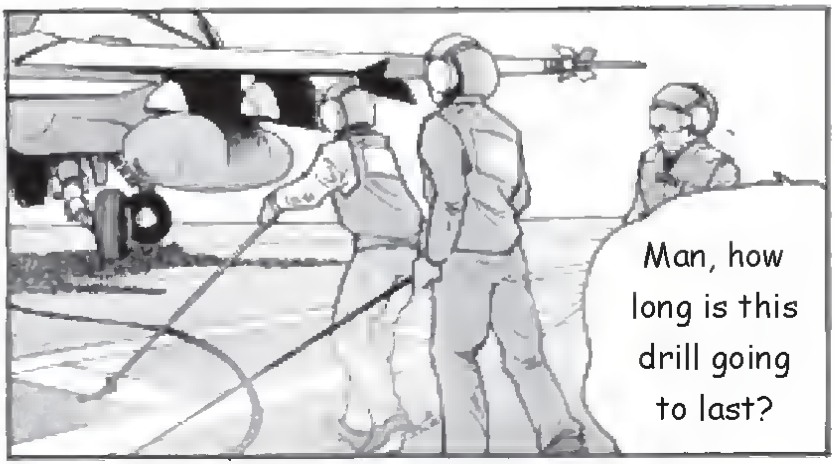

... while the crew on the ship continues their drill with a sense of mission.
Preparing for any emergency situation, when and if the time comes ...

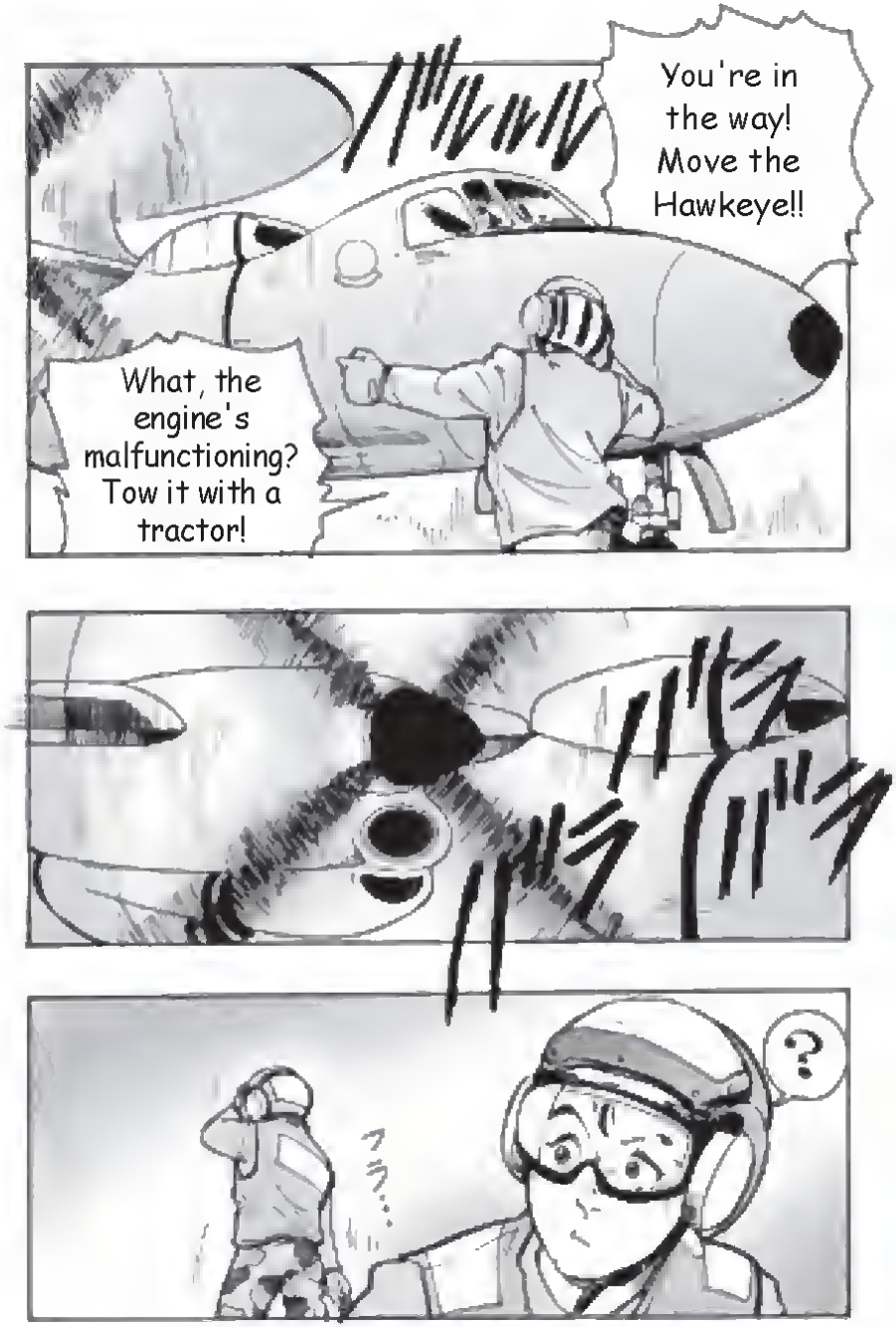

It's always good to be prepared.
... it doesn't matter even if this drill ends up being just a drill.
They keep us prepared for any emergency or damage.
Rather, a drill is well worth the time

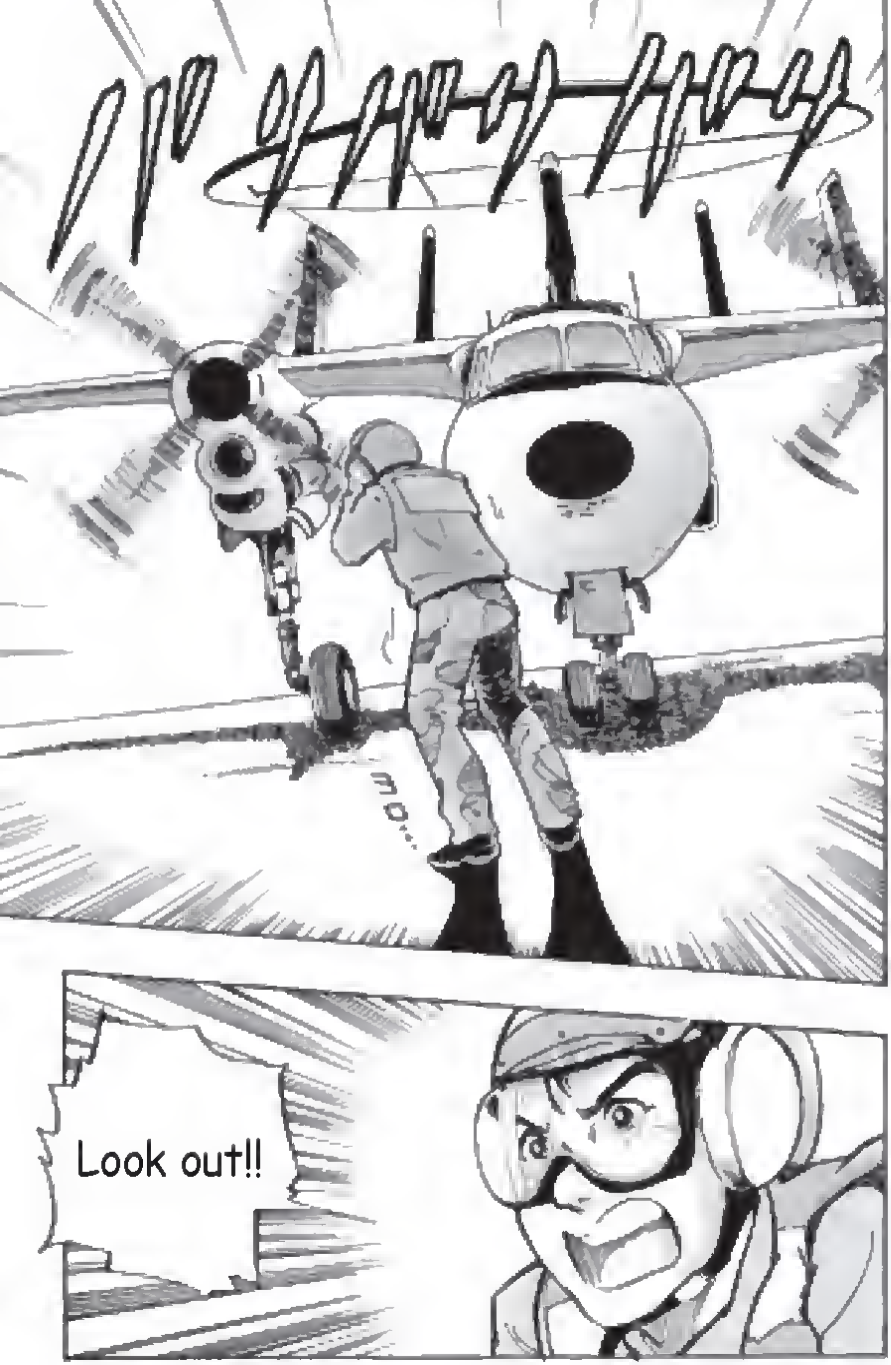

You five, go with fire extinguishers and hurry!
And you four back there, wait with a stretcher!!
Surrounded by the smell of exhaust, smell of steam from the catapult,

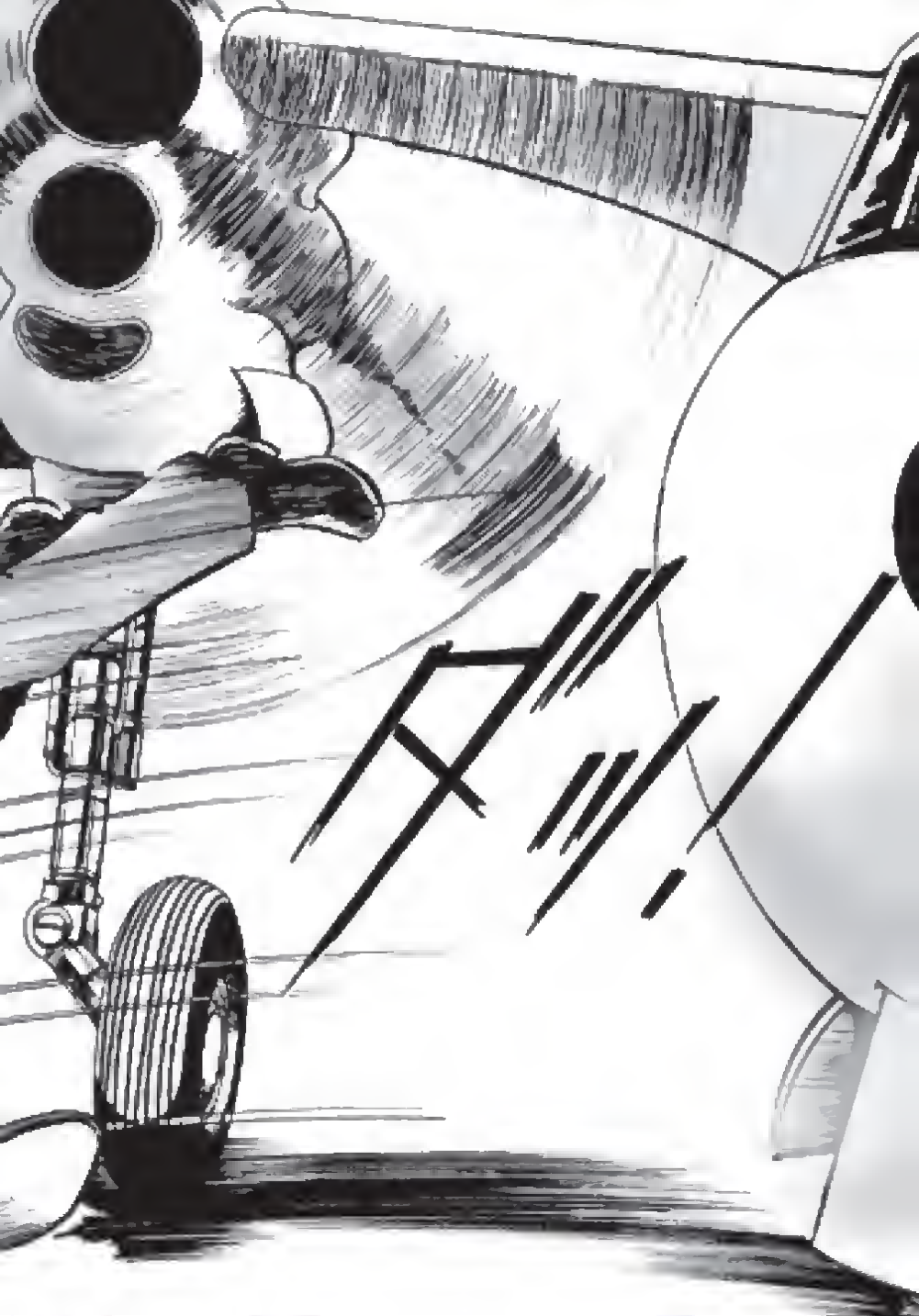
roar of jets and propeller planes, and metal-clashing noise ...

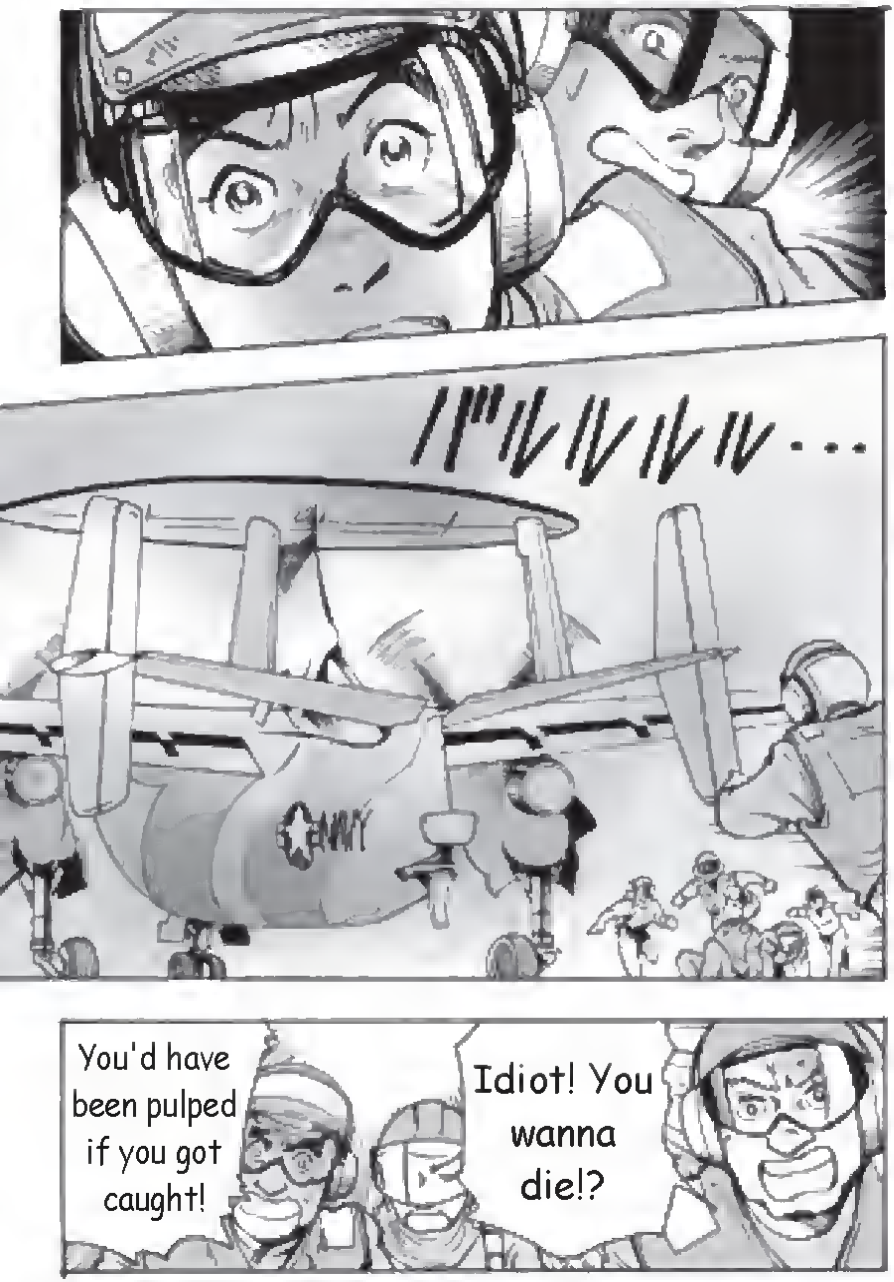
working for hours make all senses go numb.
Then fatigue follows.


Man, how long is this drill going to last?


You're in the way! Move the Hawkeye!!
What, the engine's malfunctioning? Tow it with a tractor!
?
フラ…

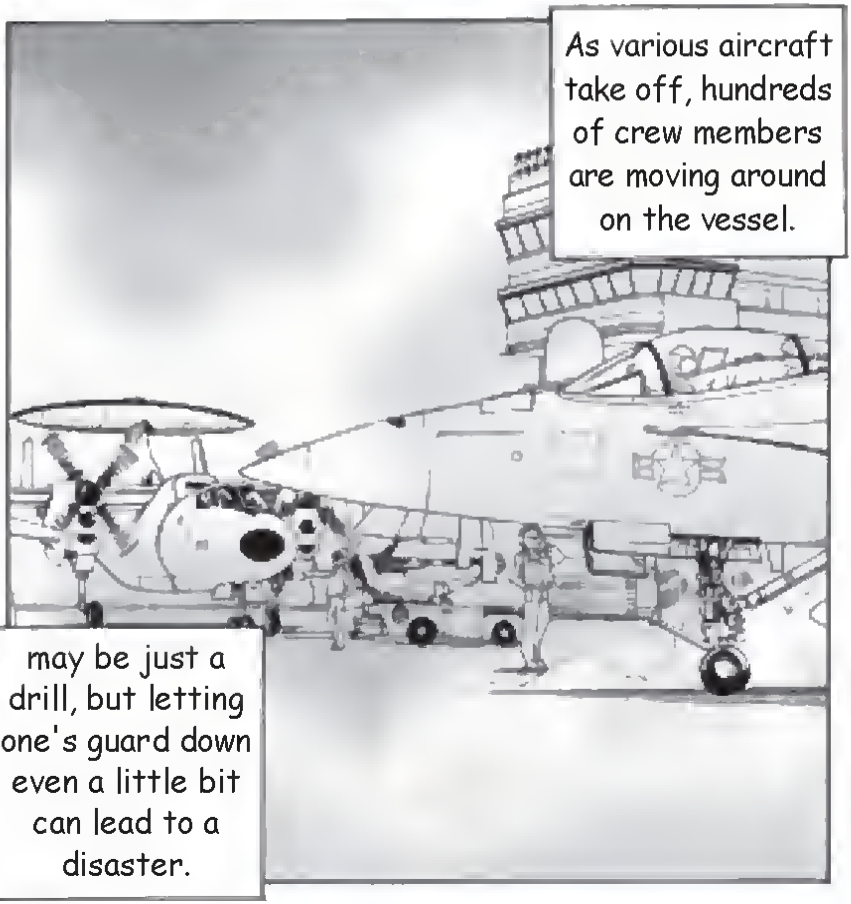

Look out!!



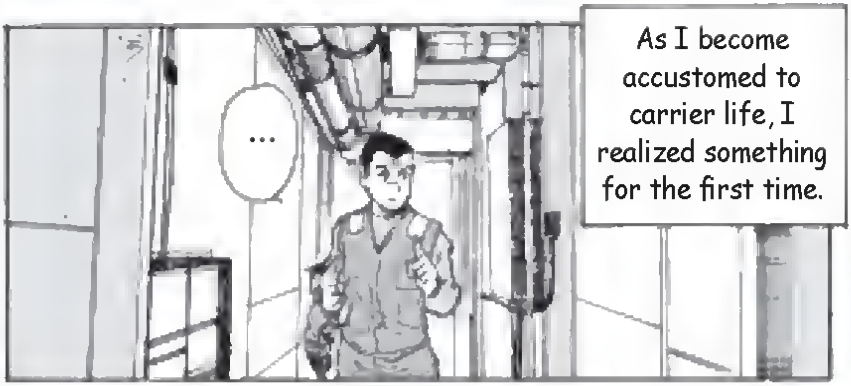

ﾊﾞﾚﾚﾚﾚ...
You'd have been pulped if you got caught!
Idiot! You wanna die!?

Thanks, you're a lifesaver.
Good Job!!
Here comes the stretcher!
Um ... I'm OK.
Wow, you are lucky to be alive!
Jack!
!!

Yes, Sir.
We don't have enough people. Take those two with you and go to the hangar!


As various aircraft take off, hundreds of crew members are moving around on the vessel.
may be just a drill, but letting one's guard down even a little bit can lead to a disaster.

There you are! Come on, over here!!
Hey, where's Jack Ohara?
?
I was with him just a moment ago ...
Um ...


...
As I become accustomed to carrier life, I realized something for the first time.

Apparently, I naturally have little sense of direction.

What's this smoke?

?

Is this a fire drill?
No, this is real fire!

This is not a drill !
Fire!
Fire!
Class "A"
Fire in ship's laundry!!
This is not a drill !
Here it is!
Fire's at the ship's laundry
All right, let's go!

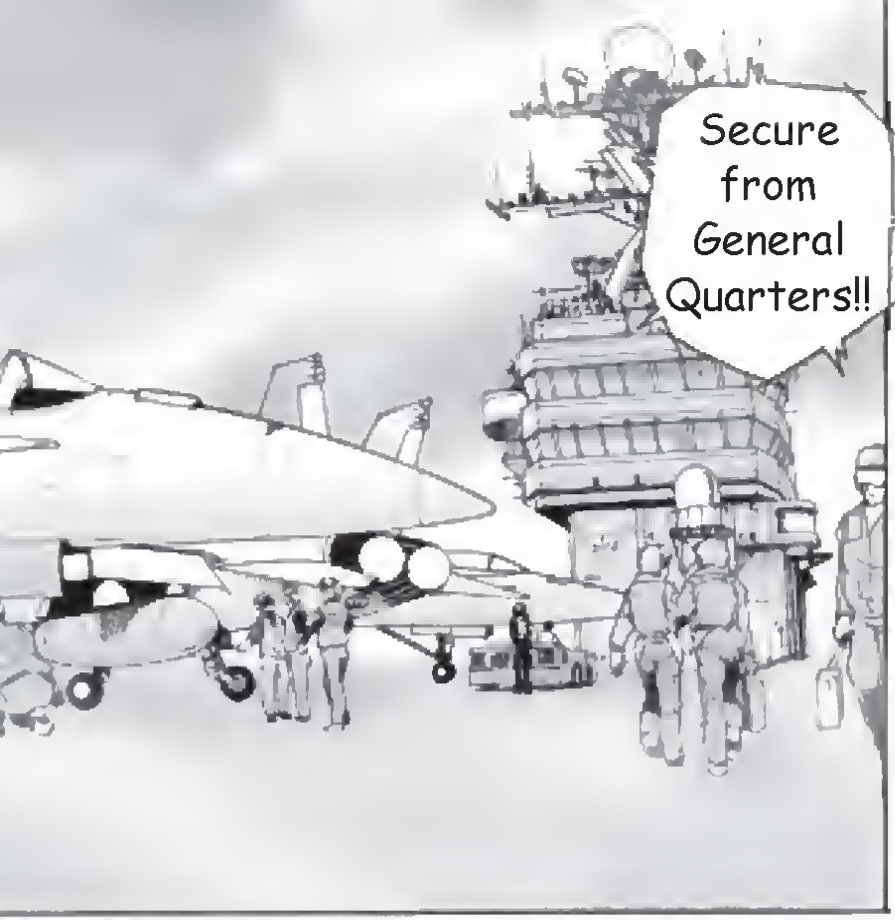
!
Where's the fire!?
Over here!!
It is in the ship's laundry!

Fire's been extinguished.
The flame didn't spread anywhere else.

Jack,
you ...

Good Job!
Good job!!

The cause of fire was an overheated dryer.


Secure from General Quarters!!

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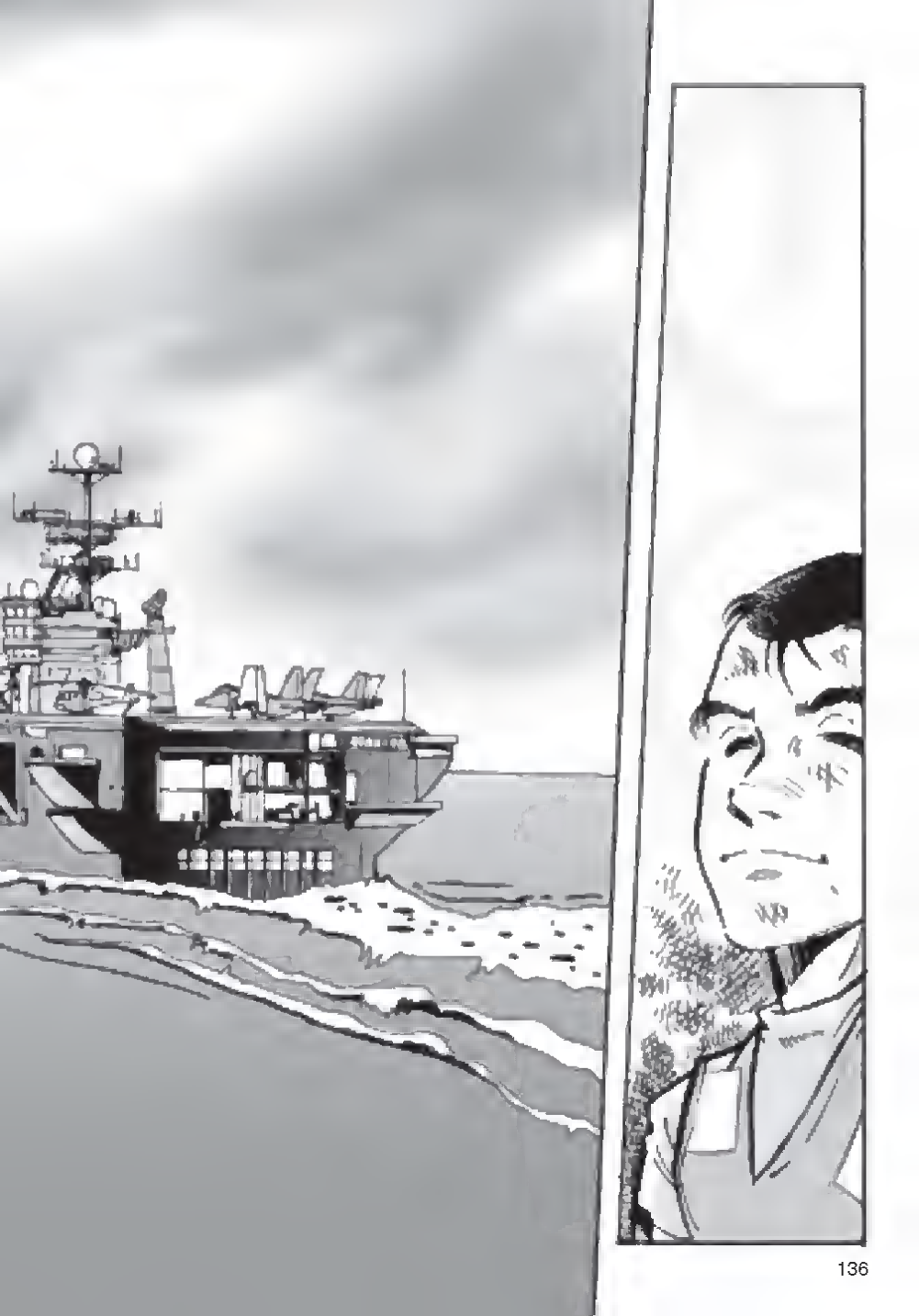
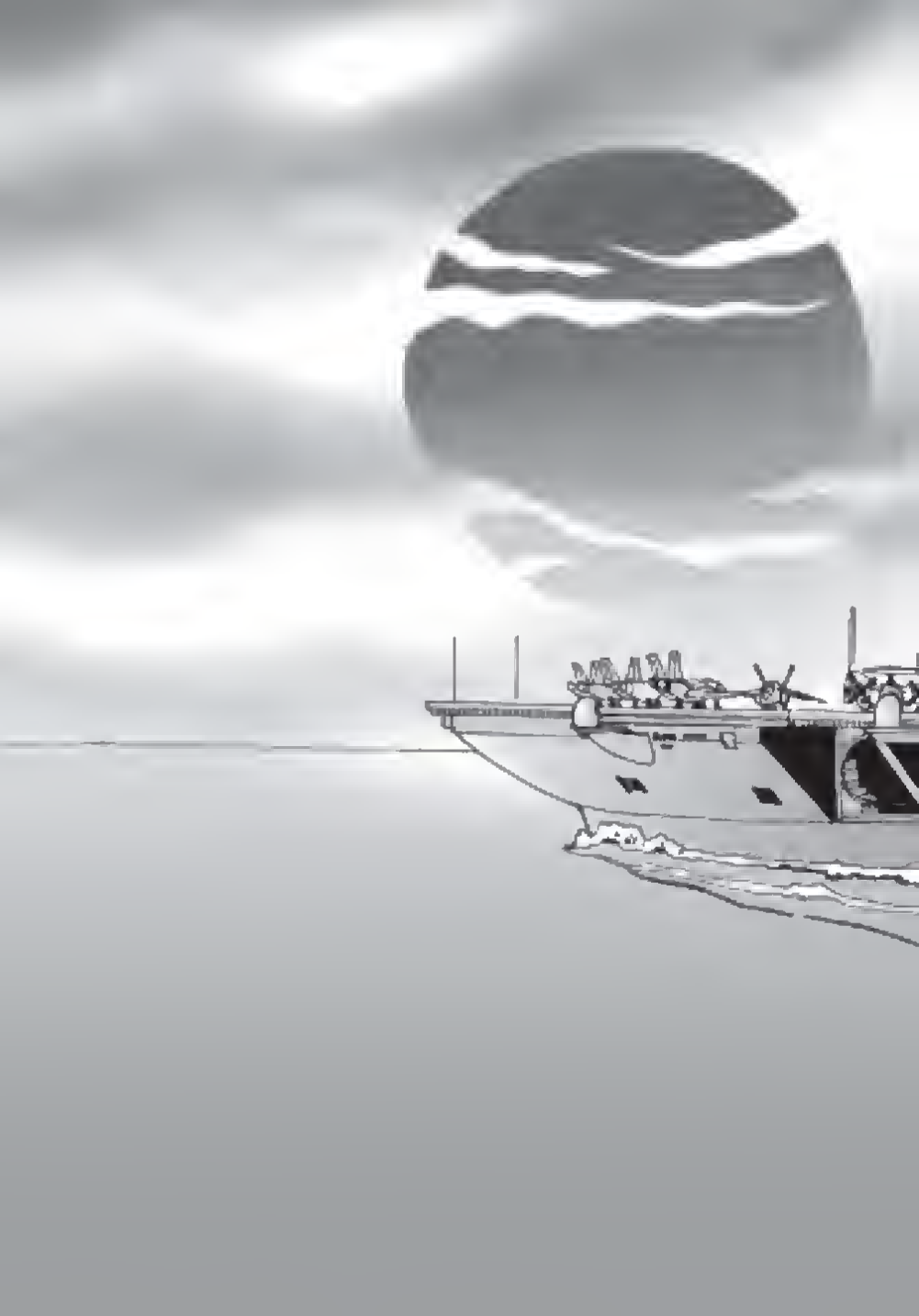
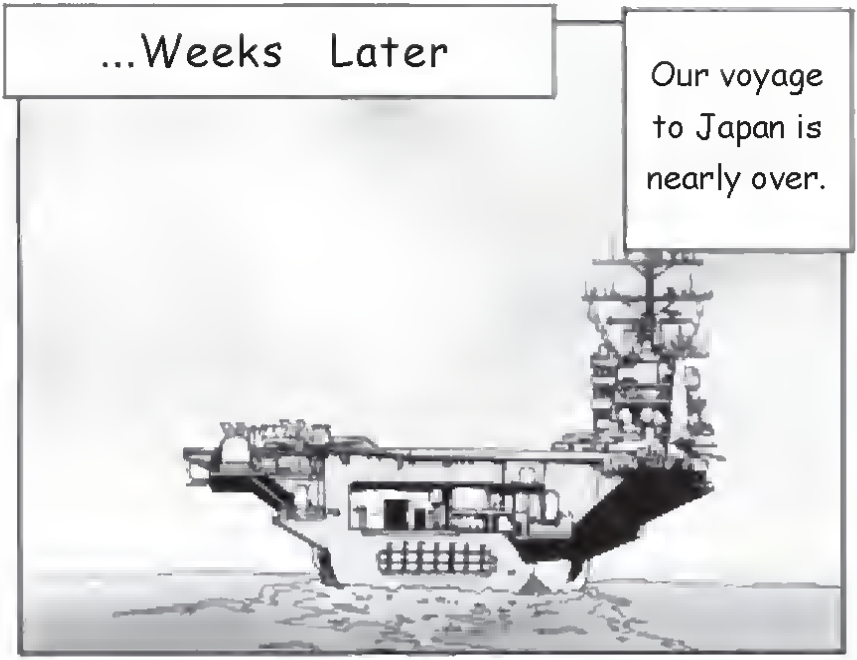
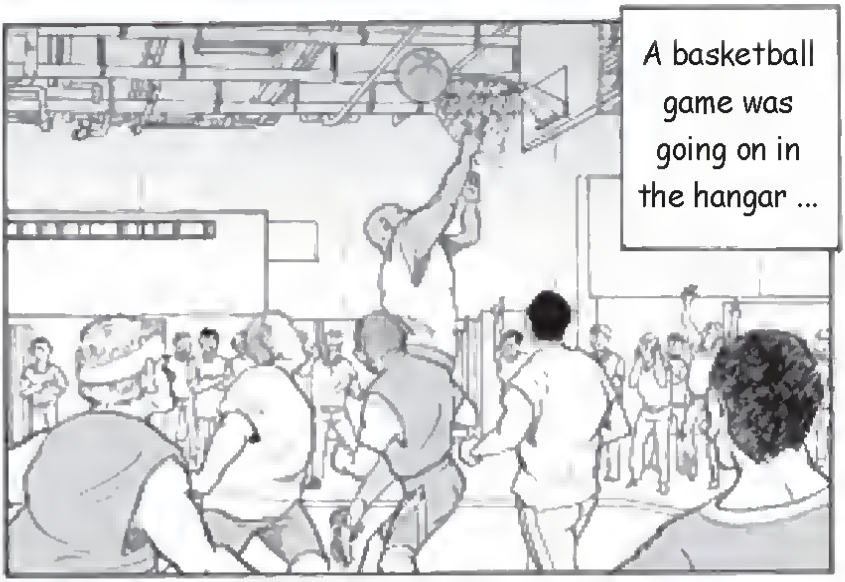
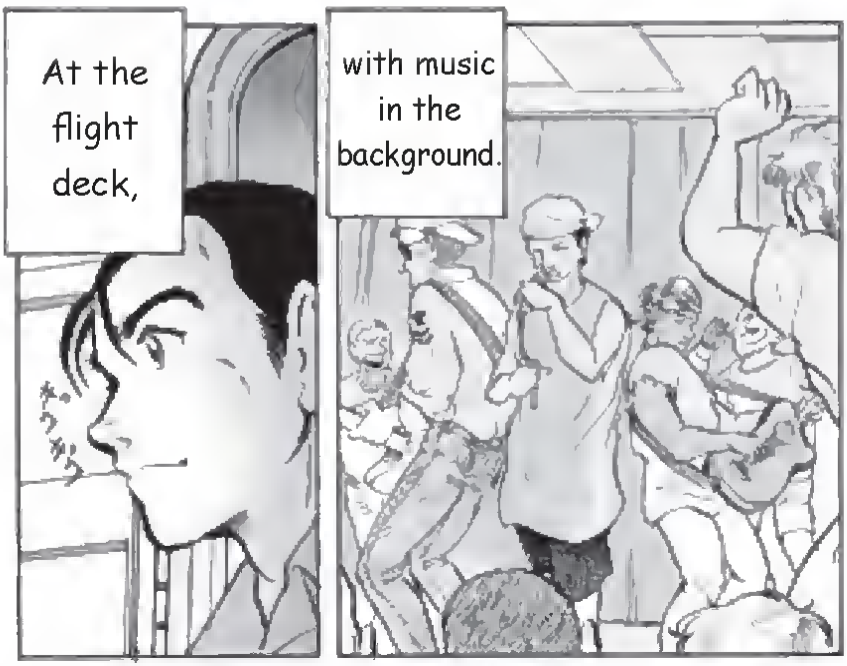




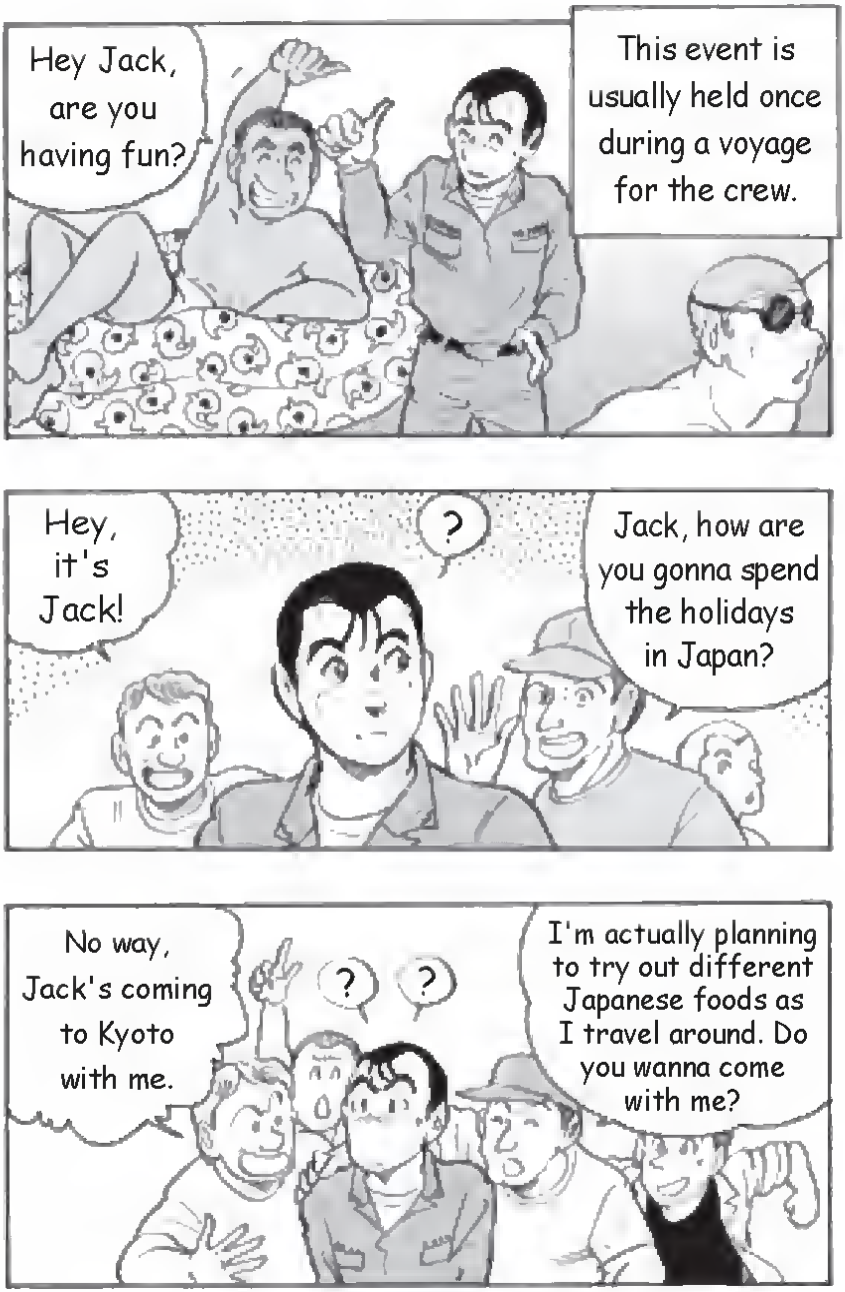

...Weeks Later
Our voyage to Japan is nearly over.

HEY
Hi
When I woke up this morning, the atmosphere in the ship seemed different.


A basketball game was going on in the hangar ...


At the flight deck,
with music in the background.

a "steel beach picnic" was underway.
It's basically a picnic at the flight deck, pretending as if it's a beach.


Hey Jack, are you having fun?
This event is usually held once during a voyage for the crew.
Hey, it's Jack!
?
Jack, how are you gonna spend the holidays in Japan?
No way, Jack's coming to Kyoto with me.
? ?
I'm actually planning to try out different Japanese foods as I travel around. Do you wanna come with me?

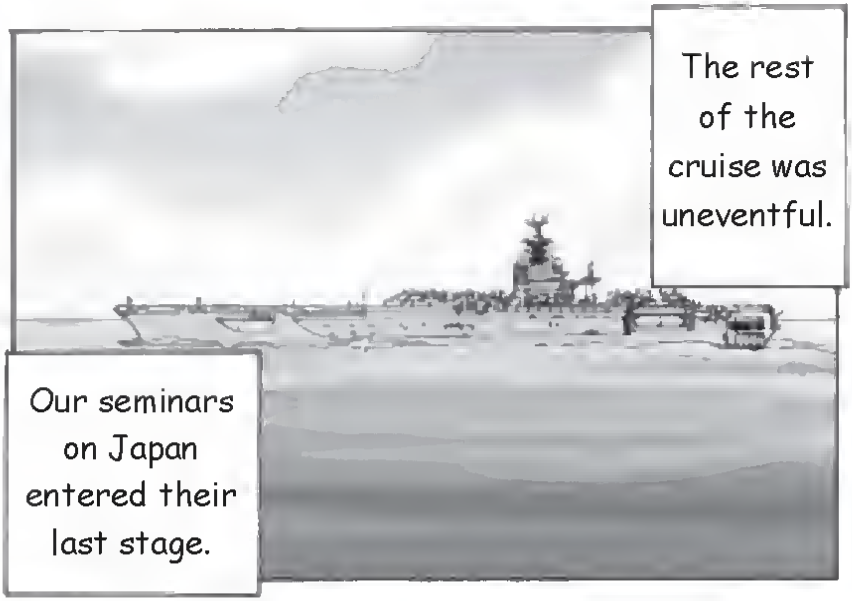
I know what you guys are up to.

What's worse, he has no sense of direction, either.
For your information, Jack may be of Japanese-descent, but he's never been to Japan before.

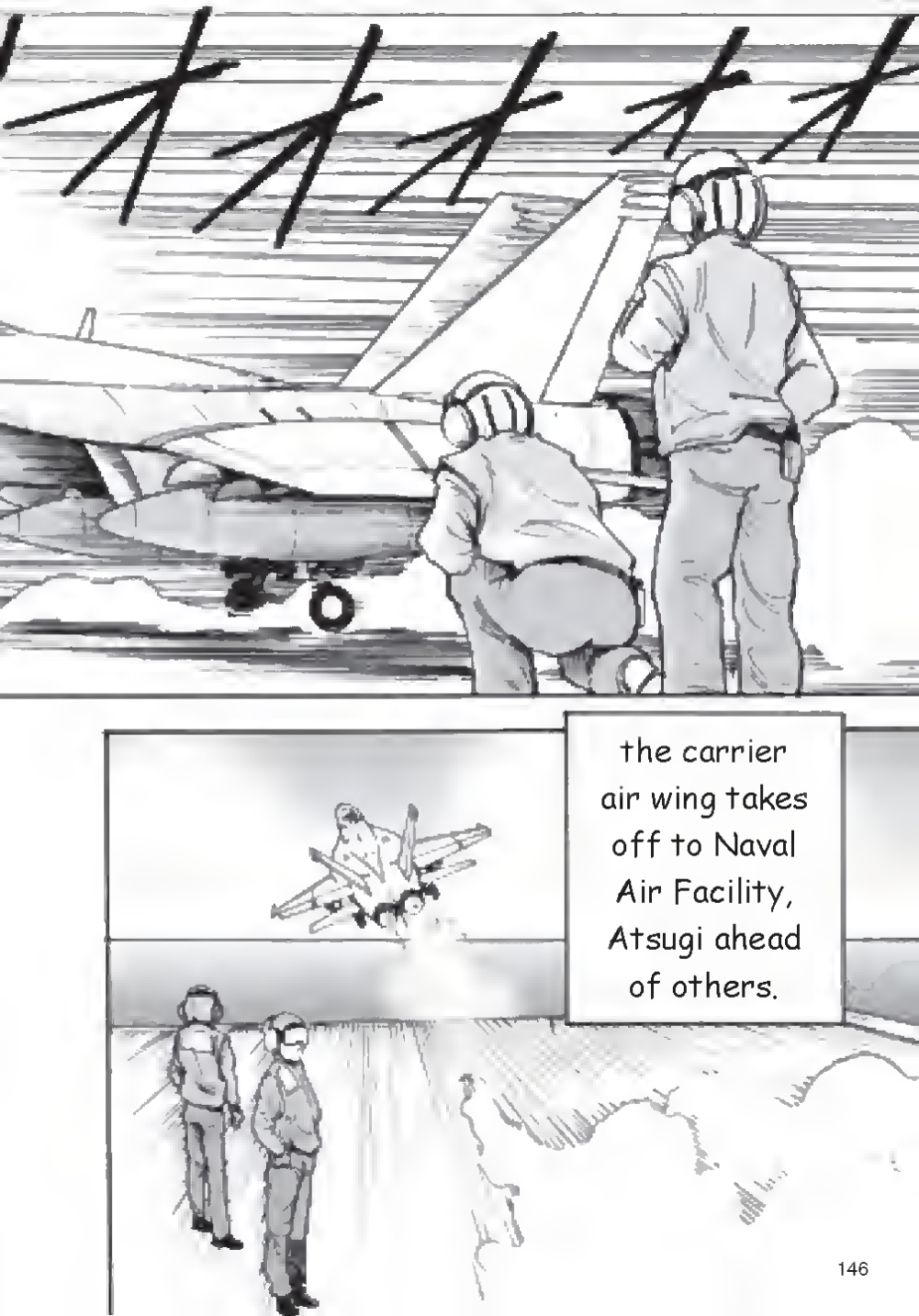
Darn.
Oh ...
Evidently, they thought I could be their tour guide.

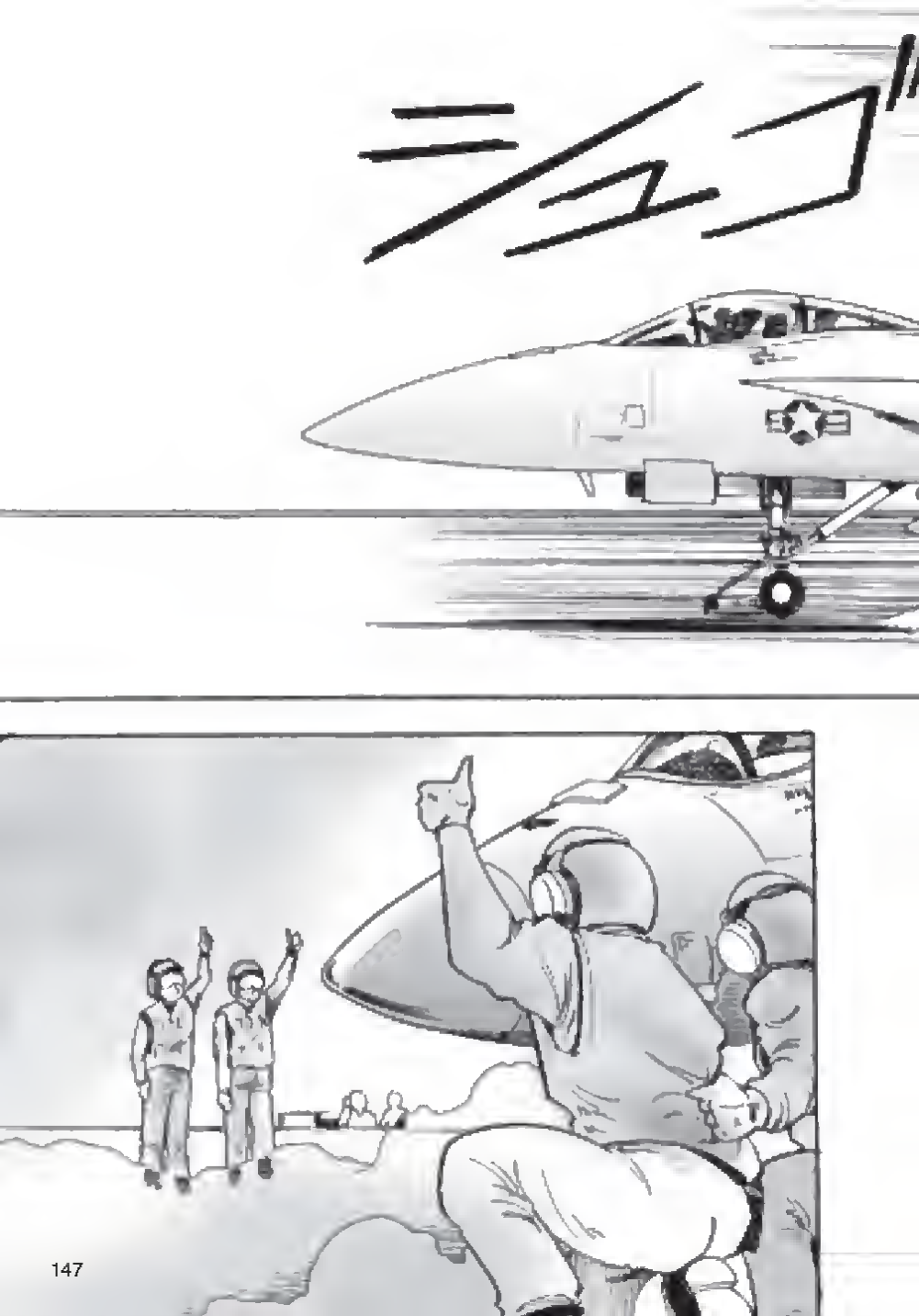
Yes, Sir. I'm Petty Officer Ohara, Sir!
!
?
!
Are you Ohara?
Yes, Sir!
I heard about your excellent performance during GQ. Keep up the good work!
He's the Air Boss.
Who's this guy?
Oh!!

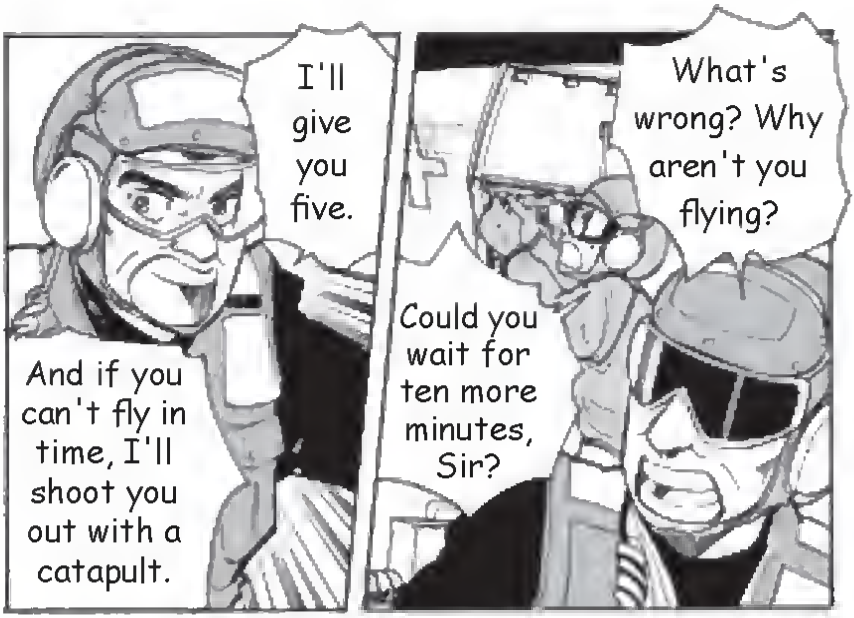
Oh boy ...
I'm going shopping at Akihabara ...
By the way, how do you intend to spend the holidays in Japan?

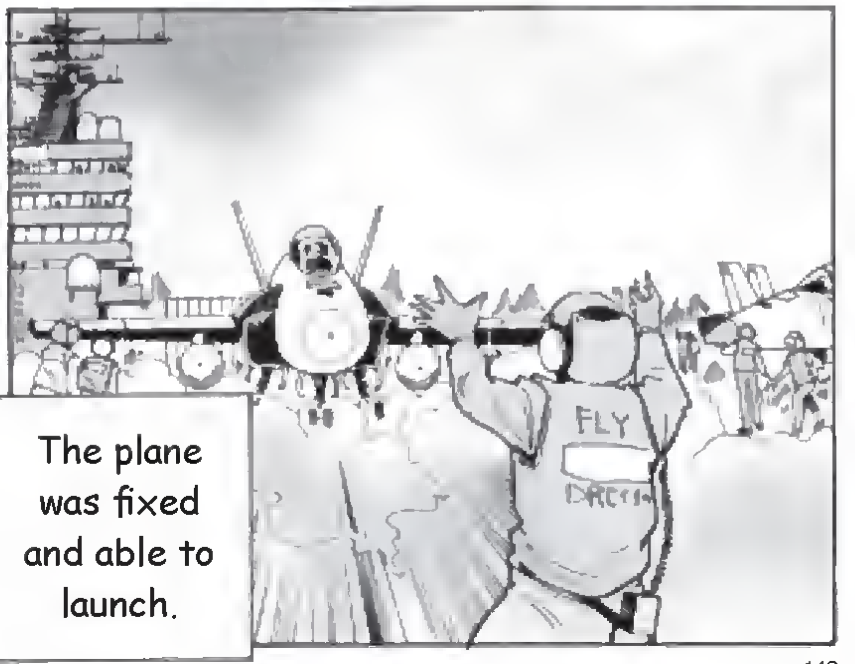

The rest of the cruise was uneventful.
Our seminars on Japan entered their last stage.

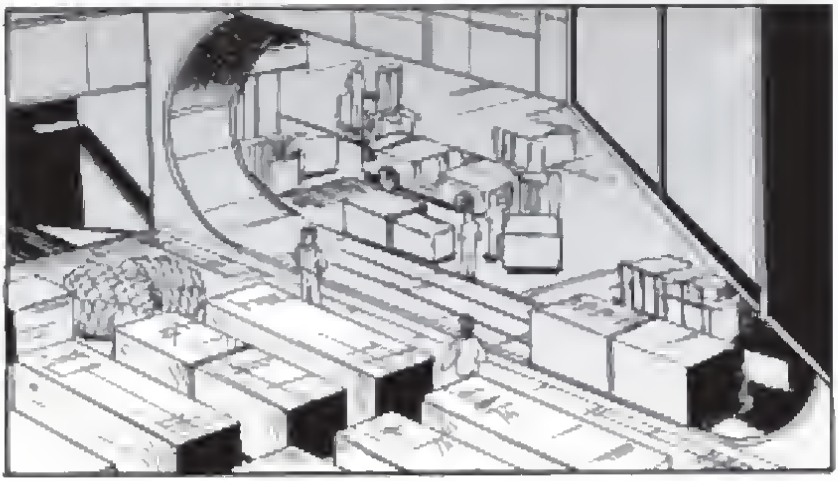
and we were ready to arrive in Japan.
When we finished packing

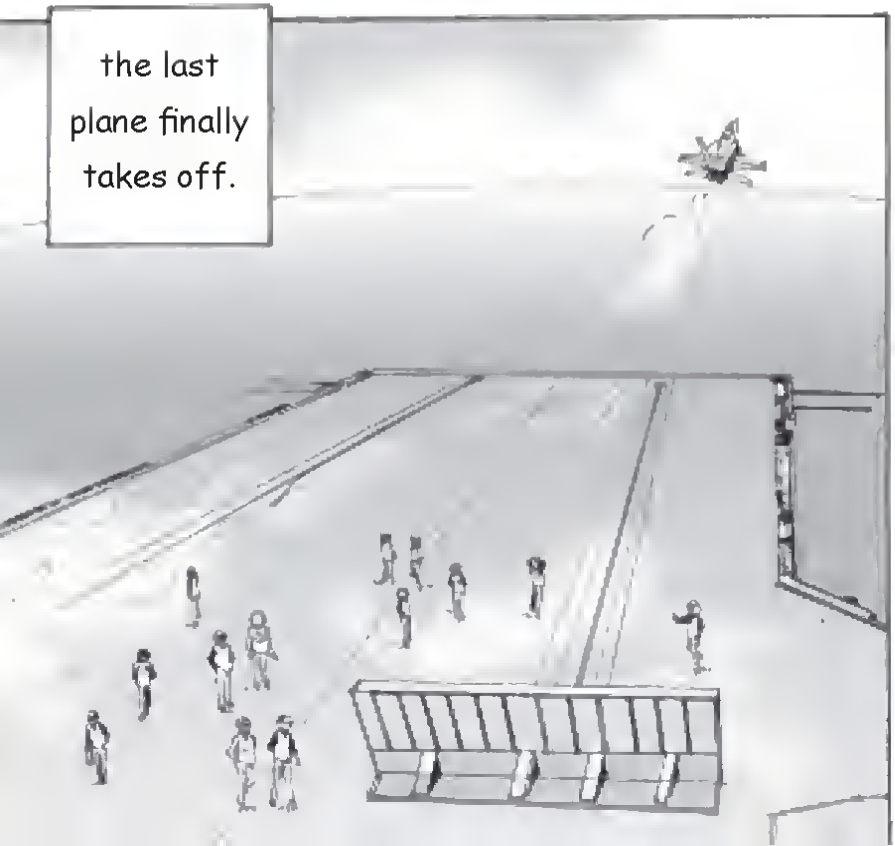

the carrier air wing takes off to Naval Air Facility, Atsugi ahead of others.

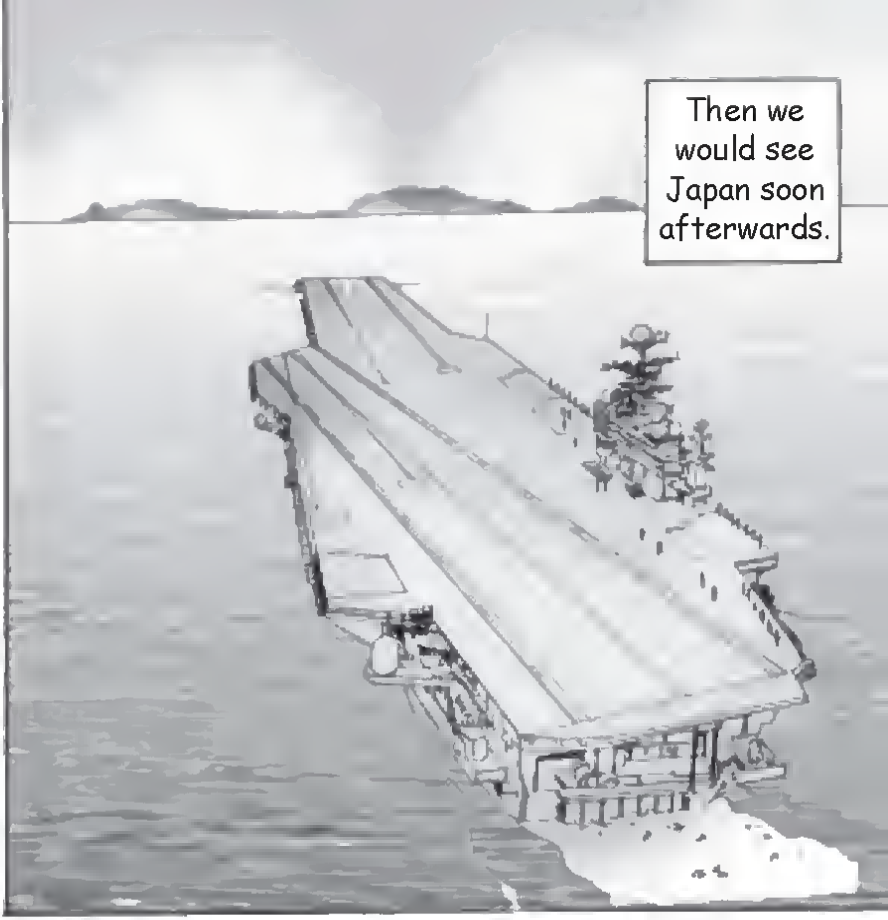

ミュゴ


I'll give you five.
And if you can't fly in time, I'll shoot you out with a catapult.
What's wrong? Why aren't you flying?
Could you wait for ten more minutes, Sir?


FLY
The plane was fixed and able to launch.



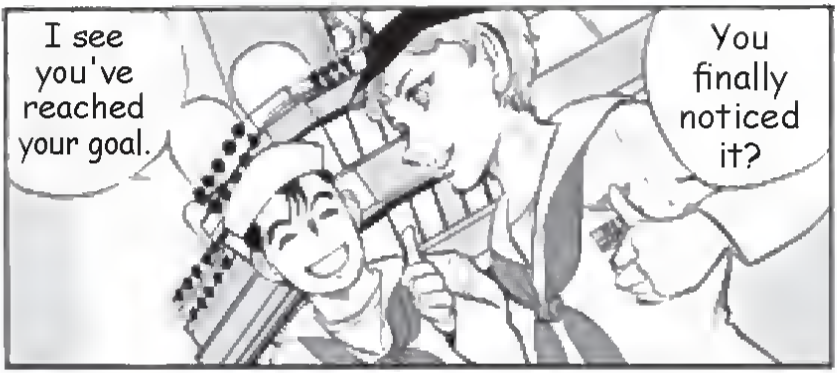

the last plane finally takes off.


Then we would see Japan soon afterwards.

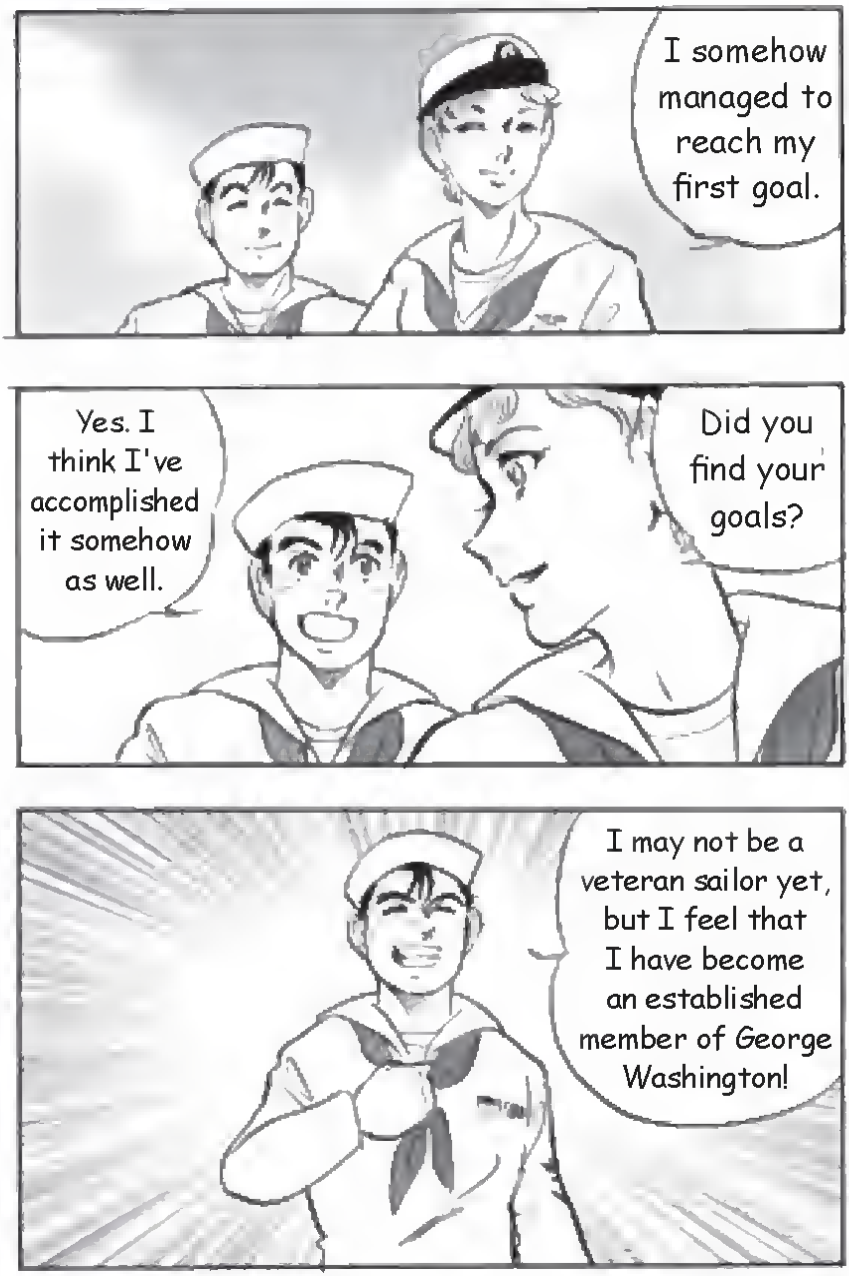
Jack, are you ready?
Yes.
?
.....
Well ...
You look good. I assume you are no longer too worried.

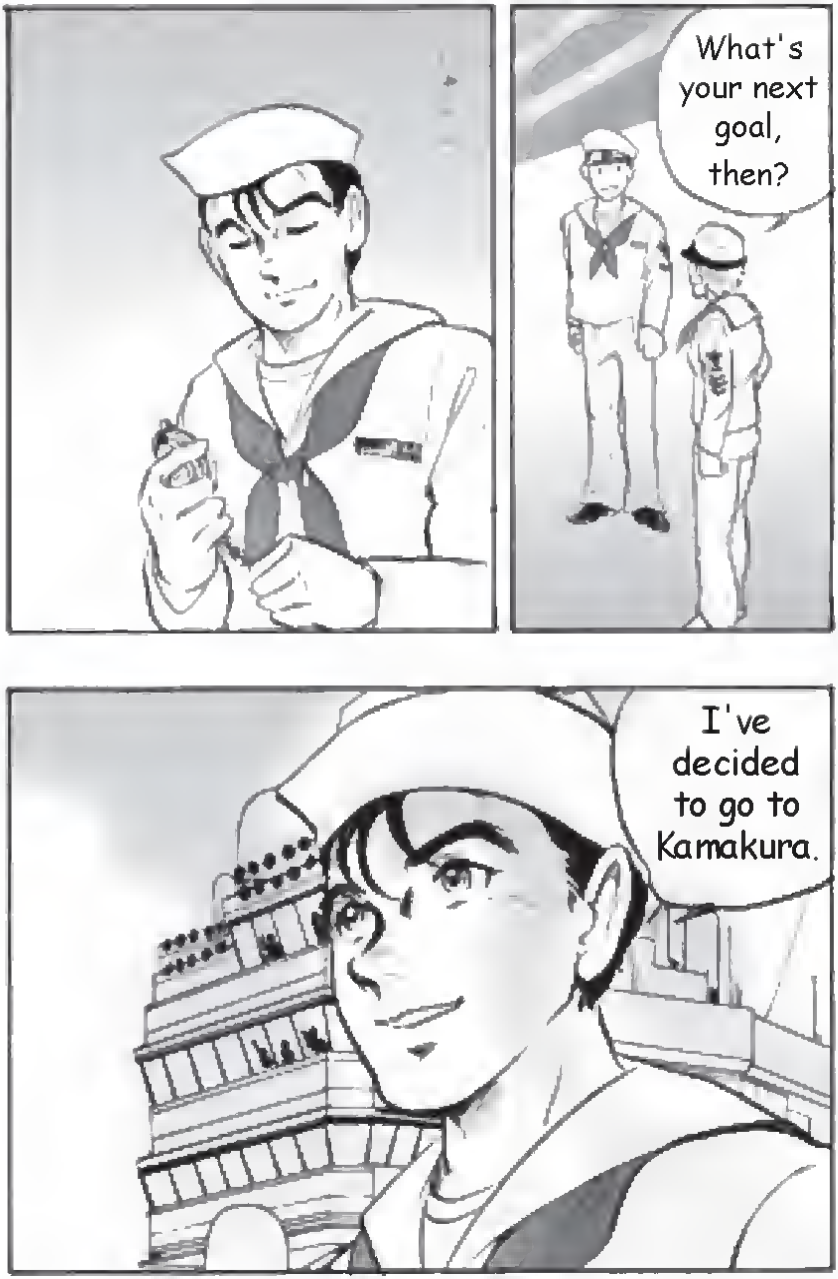
I think I was worried about such trivial things.
I'm feeling better now.
That's my boy!
Oof.
No way!
I think I'll take you to Mt. Fuji as a reward!
Oh!
I can't speak any Japanese, you know.

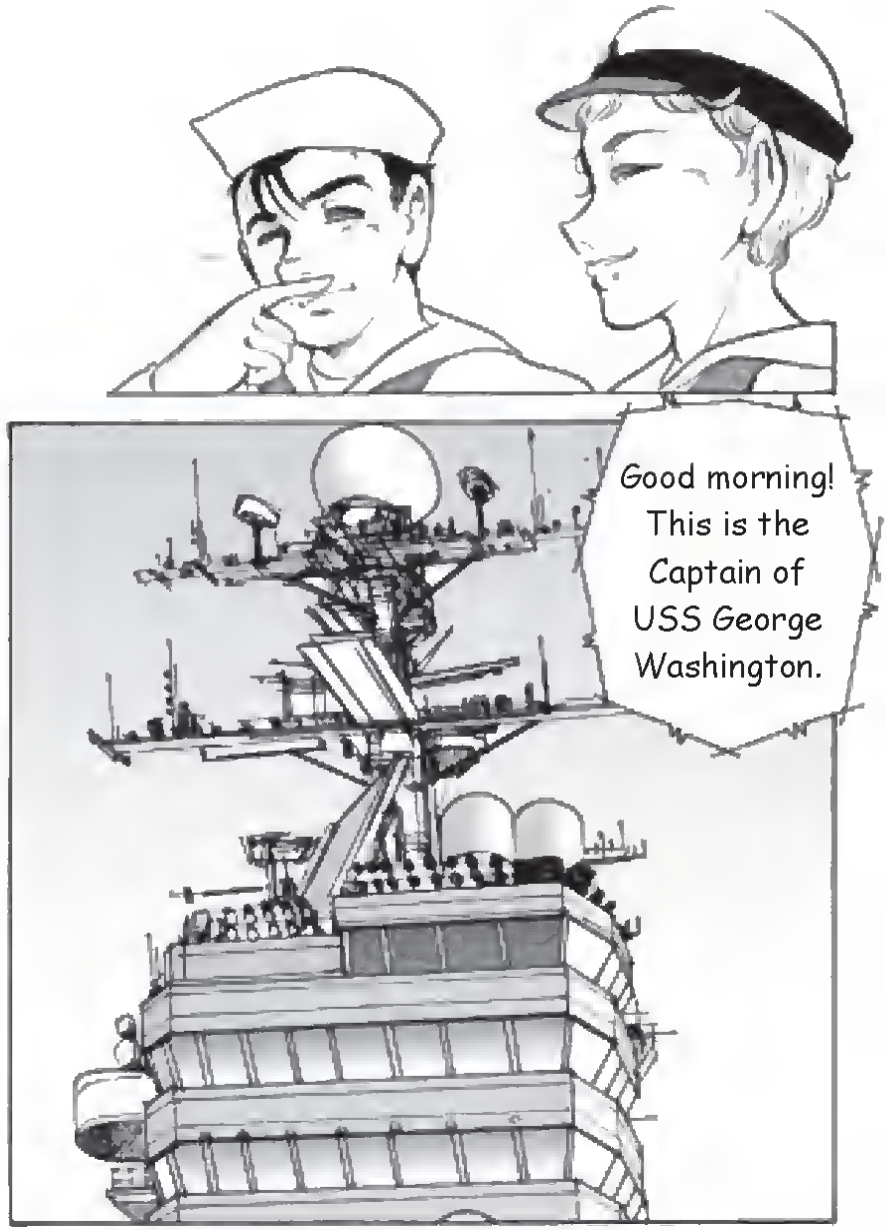
That pin!!


I see you've reached your goal.
You finally noticed it?

I went through a lot of training too ...
... and attended many different seminars.
I worked really hard and it still took me nearly a year!


I somehow managed to reach my first goal.
Did you find your goals?
Yes. I think I've accomplished it somehow as well.
I may not be a veteran sailor yet, but I feel that I have become an established member of George Washington!

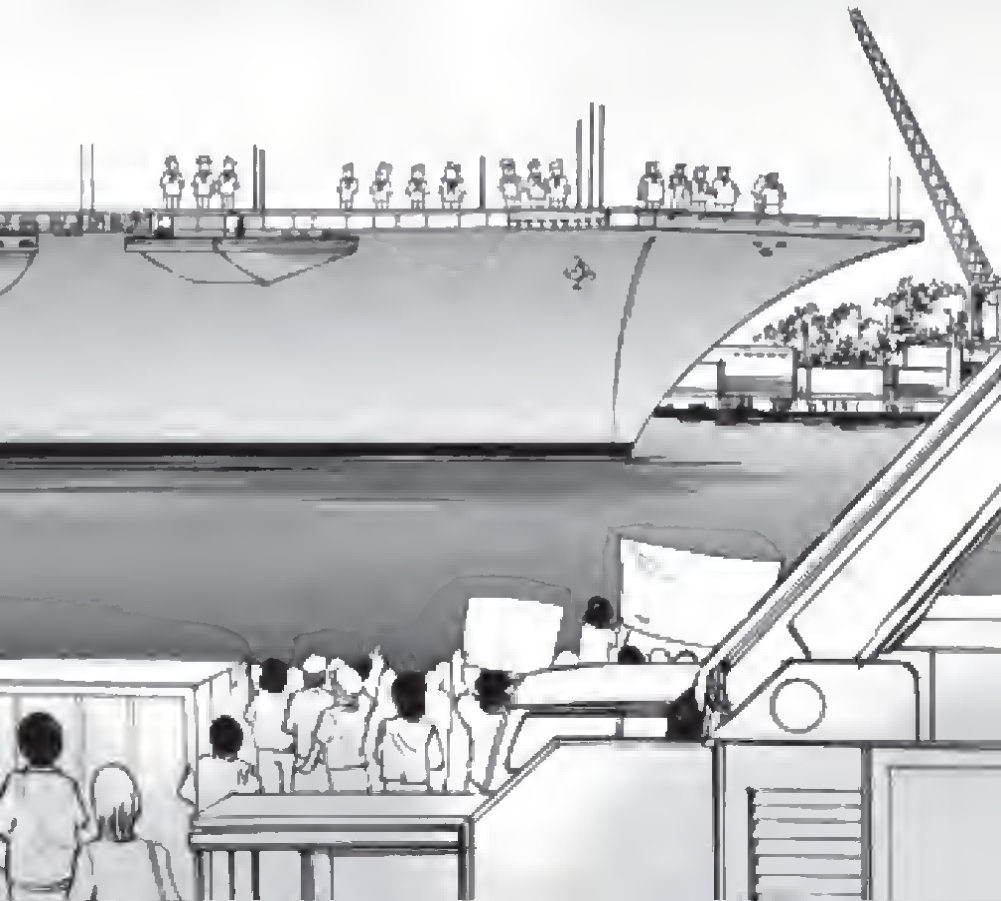

What's your next goal, then?
I've decided to go to Kamakura.


Good morning! This is the Captain of USS George Washington.

We are now entering port at Yokosuka, the largest U.S. Navy base outside the Unted States.
Remember your training.
Duty in Japan awaits you all.

I sincerely hope that each one of you will act as a goodwill ambassador

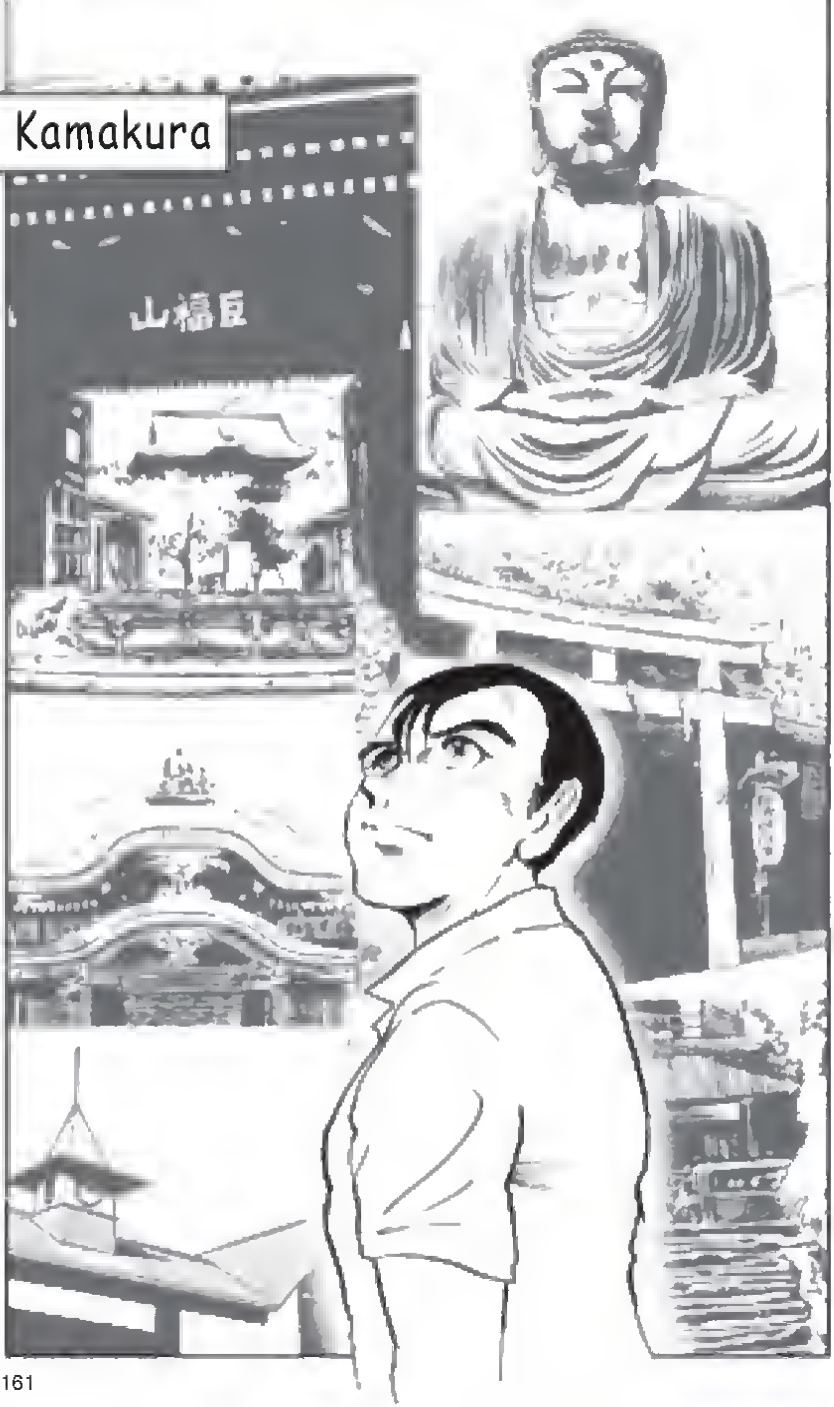
And as sailors of the U.S. Navy,

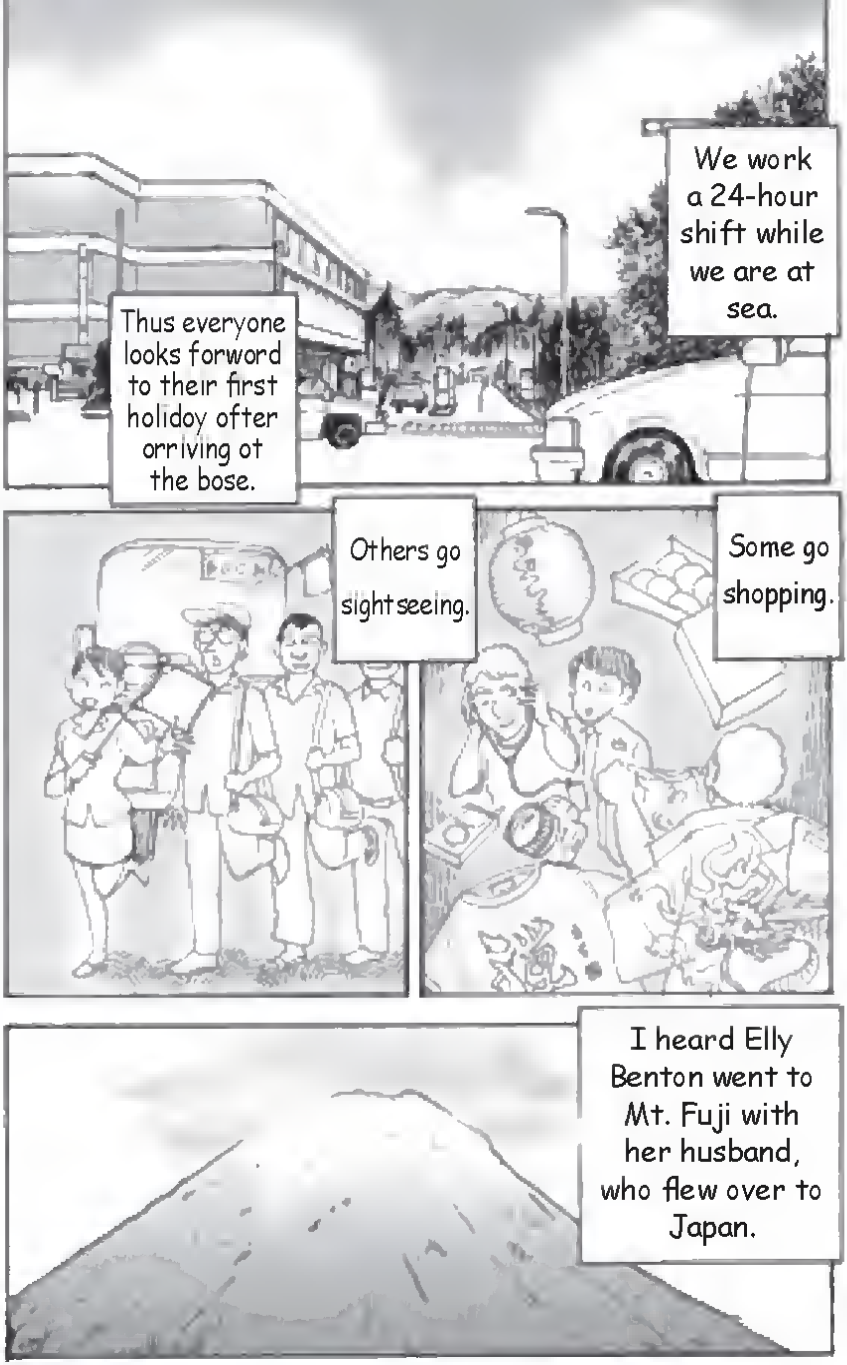


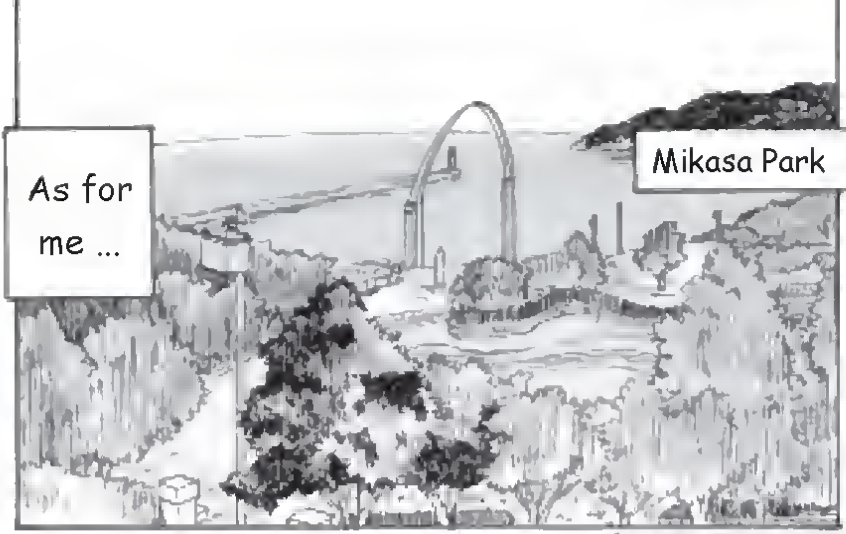
and as
a good
neighbor.
73

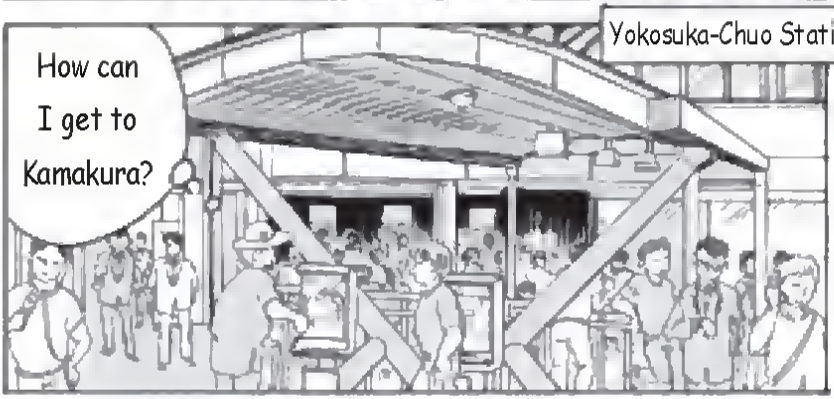
George Washington soon entered port at Yokosuka.

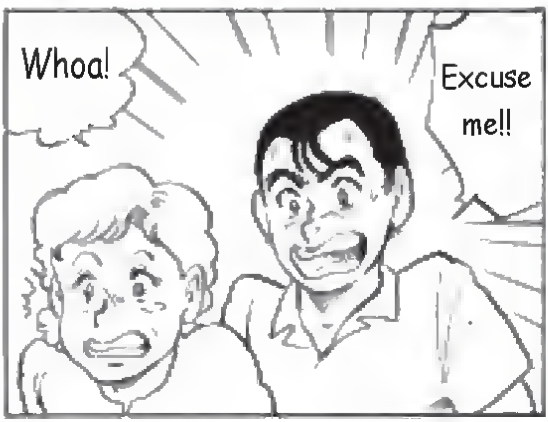
Kamakura




We work a 24-hour shift while we are at sea.
Thus everyone looks forword to their first holidoy ofter orriving ot the bose.
Others go sightseeing.
Some go shopping.
I heard Elly Benton went to Mt. Fuji with her husband, who flew over to Japan.


As for me ...
Mikasa Park


How can I get to Kamakura?
Yokosuka-Chuo Station

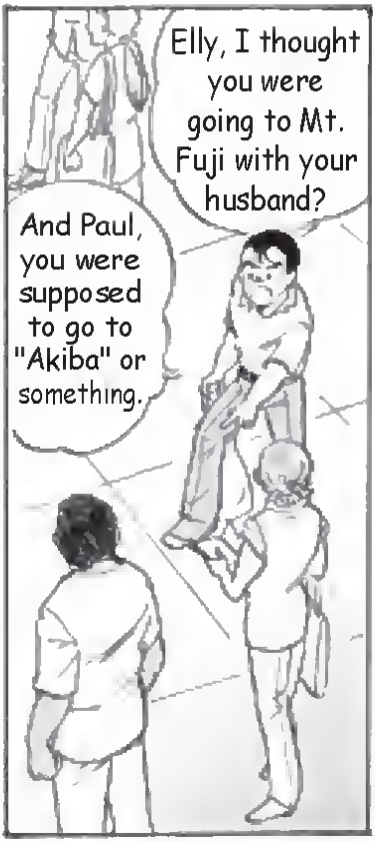

Whoa!
Excuse me!!

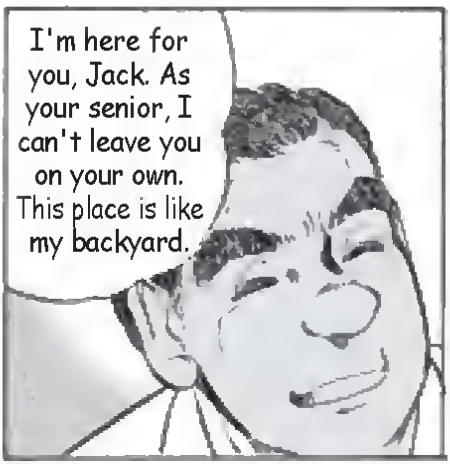
OK ... here goes.

How do I get to Kamakura?
Kamakura
I'm finally here!

Oh, Kamakura! Kamakura!! This place brings back memories.
Why are THEY here?
Hey, I want something sweet. How about zenzai?

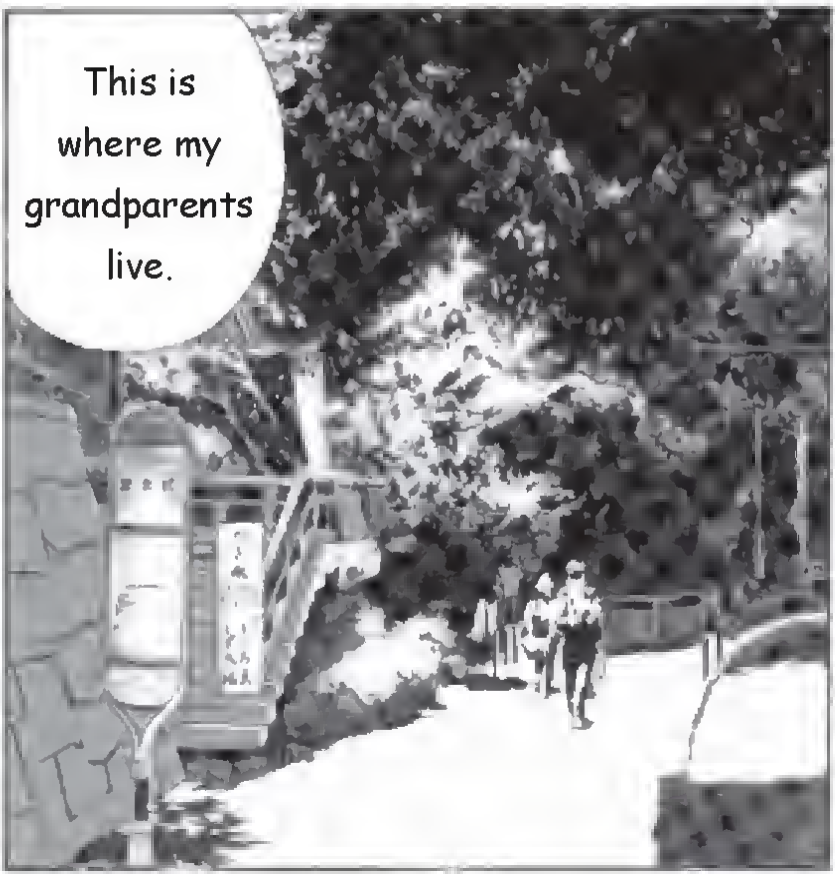
I didn't have a choice! My husband was running late.


Elly, I thought you were going to Mt. Fuji with your husband?
And Paul, you were supposed to go to "Akiba" or something.


I'm here for you, Jack. As your senior, I can't leave you on your own. This place is like my backyard.

This is your first time in Japan, isn't it? You should become a little more familiar with the environment first.
I didn't come here to play around.
You know, this is such a great place. You can find a lot of "tera (temples)," and there's so much nature.

True _
I missed this pleasant smell of grass since I was at sea for quite a while.


This is where my grandparents live.

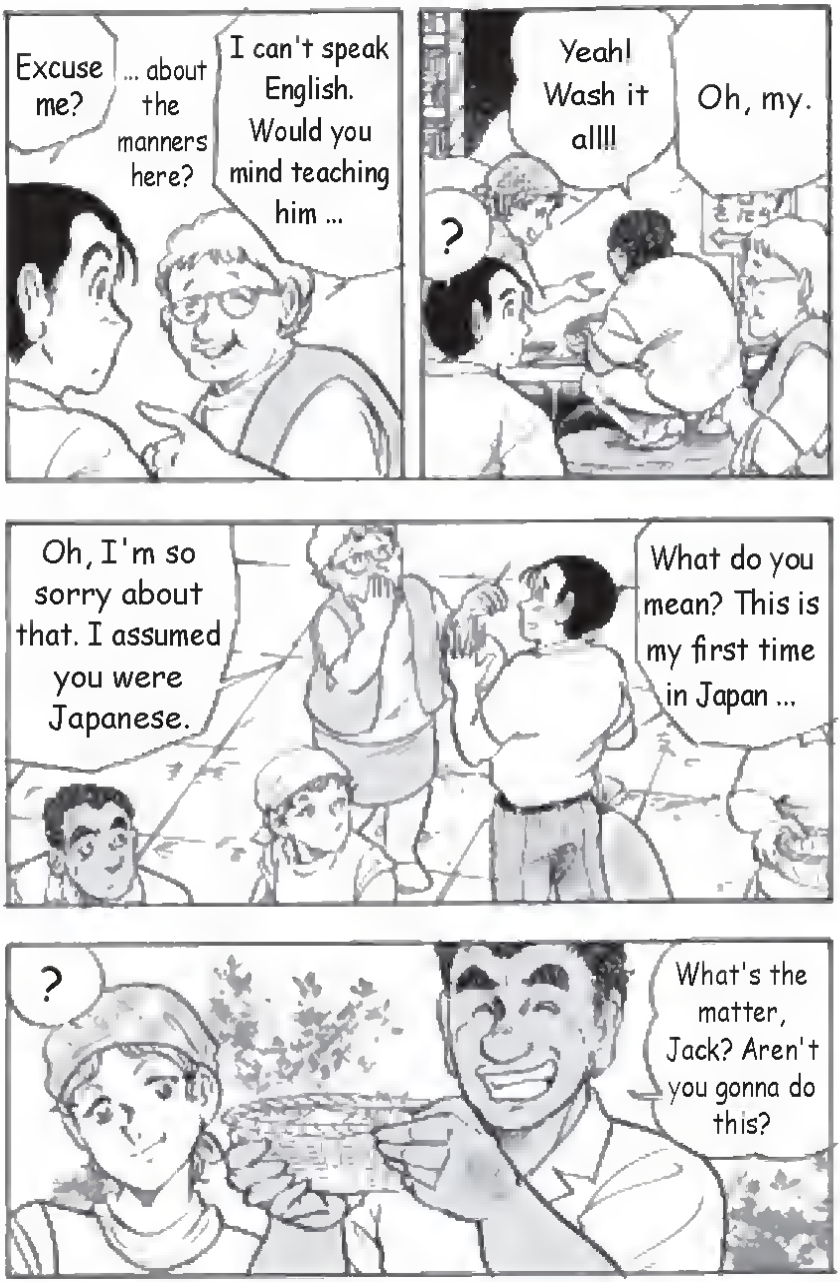
All right then, let's go. First, we are going to fatten up our wallet.

Zeni arai-Benten

OK ...
Interesting. Is it some sort of Japanese magic?
This is a popular spot that doubles the money you wash.

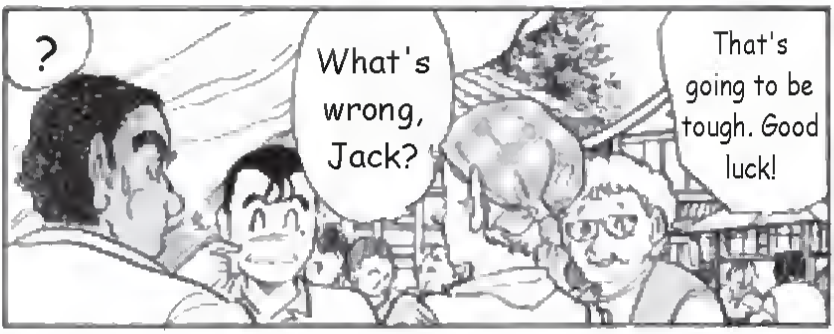
Jack, make sure you wash a lot! It doubles, you know, double!!

How do we do this?
I am ... OK, I'm going to wash all the cash I have!


Excuse me?
... about the manners here?
I can't speak English. Would you mind teaching him ...
?
Yeah! Wash it all!!
Oh, my.
Oh, I'm so sorry about that. I assumed you were Japanese.
What do you mean? This is my first time in Japan ...
?
What's the matter, Jack? Aren't you gonna do this?

No matter what I think, Japanese blood definitely runs in my veins ...
She assumed I was Japanese ... huh?

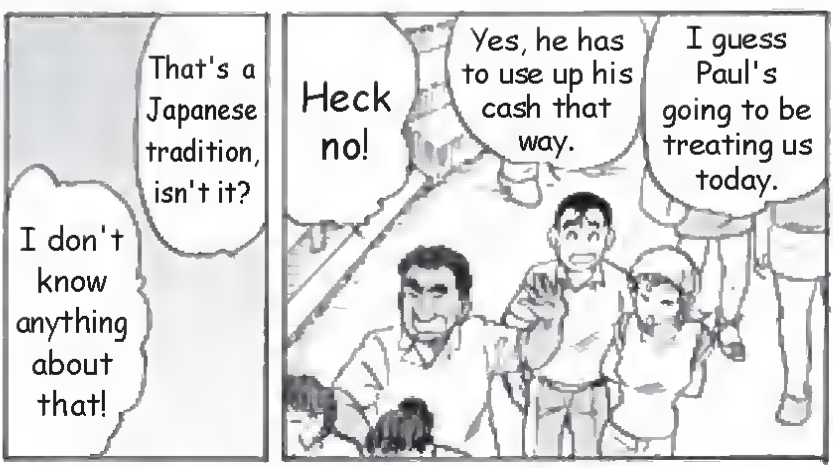
Oh nooooooooooooo!!


?
What's wrong, Jack?
That's going to be tough. Good luck!

I washed all the cash I have!

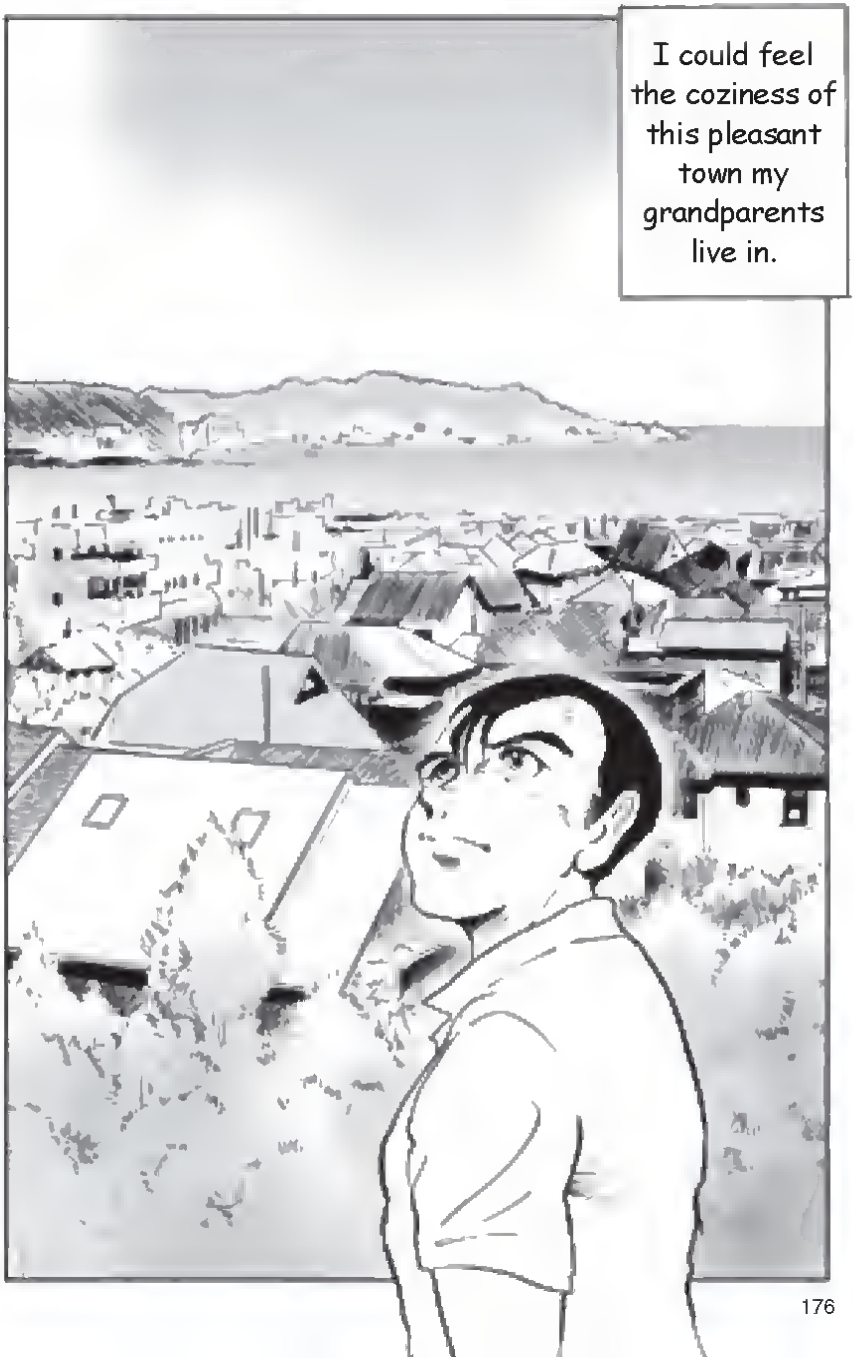
No way! You told me you are an expert on Japanese traditions!
What!?
She told me you are supposed to use up all the cash you washed before the end of the day.
I washed mine, too.

Don't laugh so much!!


That's a Japanese tradition, isn't it?
I don't know anything about that!
Heck no!
Yes, he has to use up his cash that way.
I guess Paul's going to be treating us today.

I could laugh from the heart, as if to share a laugh with a whole family.

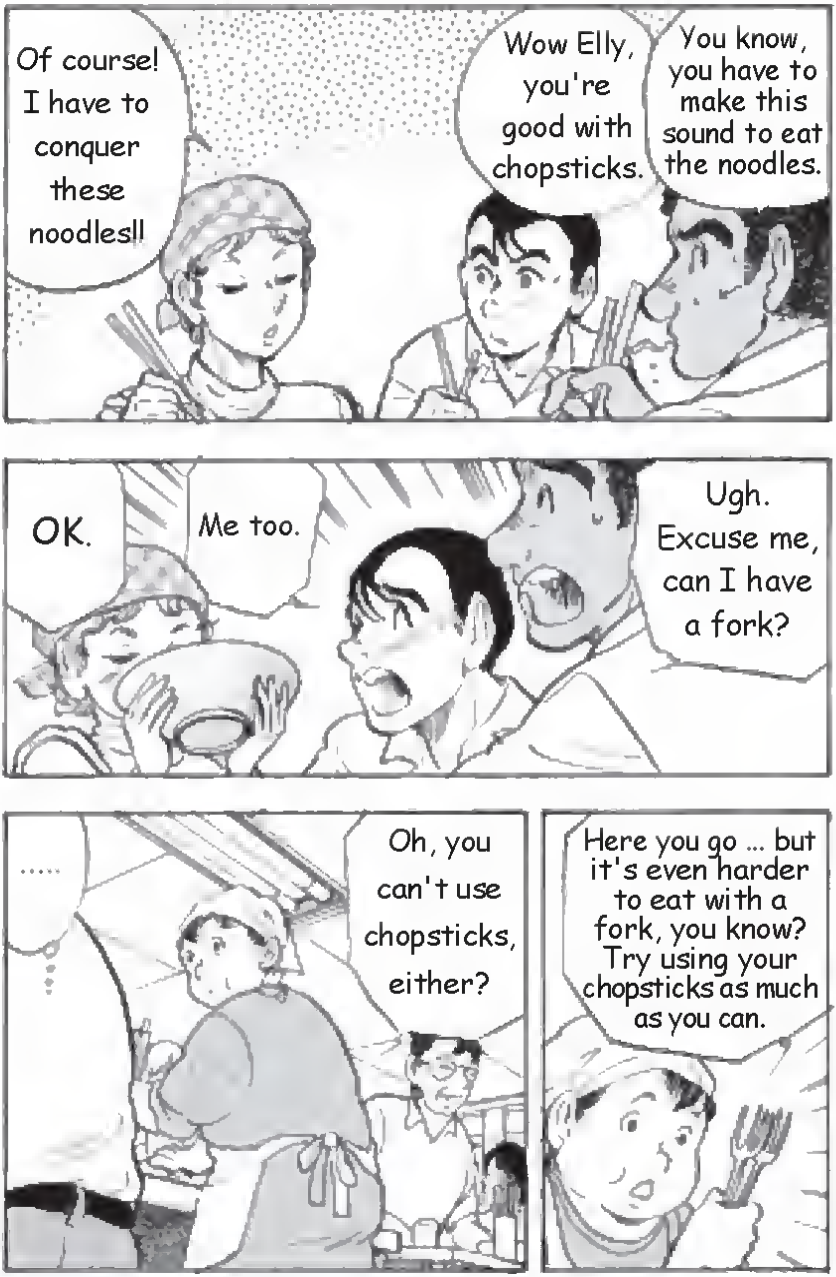
We visited so many temples.
I didn't understand the meanings behind them,


I could feel the coziness of this pleasant town my grandparents live in.

Thank you ...
It must be because they were there with me, and I could feel their thoughtfulness.
Come on, this should leave an impression!
Wow!!

Kamakura-daibutsu

Like this?


Of course! I have to conquer these noodles!!
Wow Elly, you're good with chopsticks.
You know, you have to make this sound to eat the noodles.
OK.
Me too.
Ugh. Excuse me, can I have a fork?
.....
Oh, you can't use chopsticks, either?
Here you go ... but it's even harder to eat with a fork, you know? Try using your chopsticks as much as you can.

Oh, is he?
My father is Japanese.
I came to see my grandparents, who live here in Kamakura.

... Do you think?
That'll make them happy.
Thank you.
I see ...
Of course! Who wouldn't be happy to see their own grandchild?

Gee, when did YOU become the boss?
I hope you'll behave, Elly.
Sure. We'll leave the kids on their own.
I guess we'll go our separate ways now.
Don't get lost, Jack!

Jack?

Is this the place?

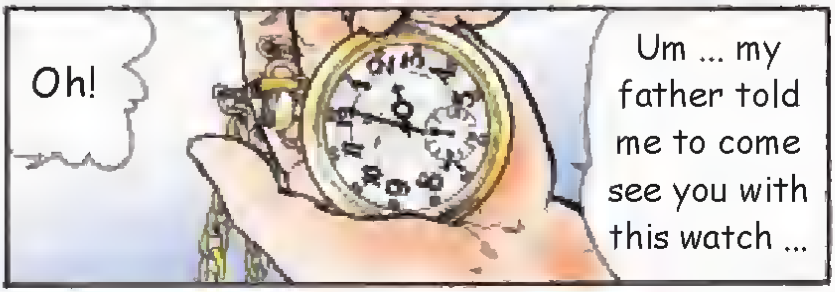
Yes ...
Are you Jack Ohara?
Welcome!
I'm your Grandpa!
What!?
Spending the rest of your life ... quietly ...?

I can't believe he's related to Takuro!
Nice lad.
Takuro, is this your grandson?
They're all my neighbors. They were waiting for you so we can have a party.
With a picture attached to it.
Your dad told me over the e-mail.
He said you'll come right over, as soon as George Washington comes into port.
Or rather, how did you know I was your grandchild?
How did you know I was coming?

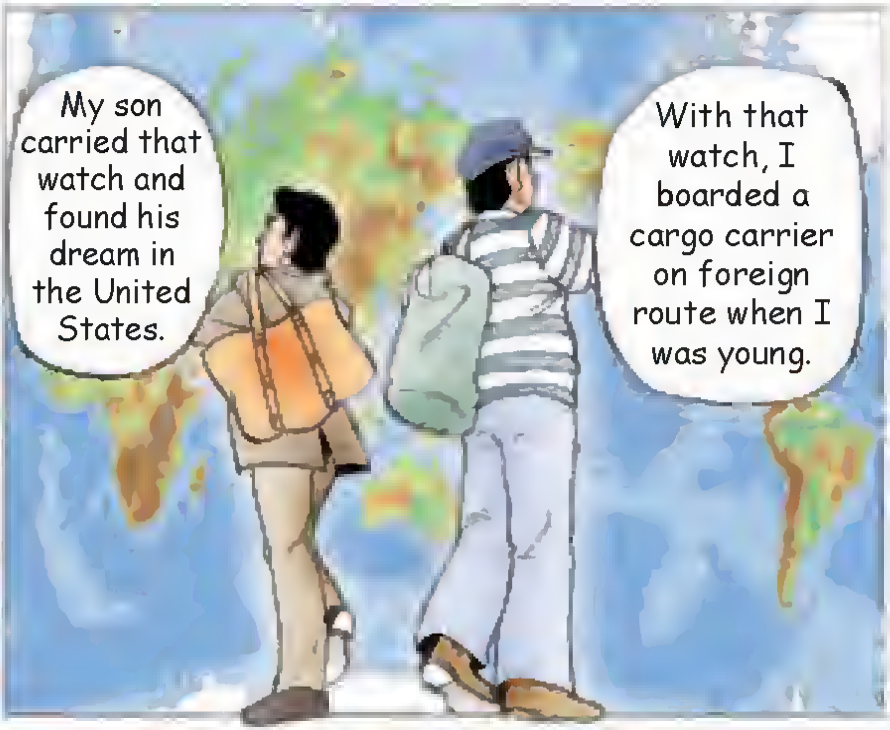
Come on in. I'll make you some tea.
You really came right over, didn't you?
....
Over the e-mail? With a photo?? Huh???
Jack's here!!
Hey Honey!!
Jack?

Welcome! I'm your grandma!!
ﾄﾞｰﾝ
Jack! It is you!!
Come on in!
Um ... nice to meet you ...
A strict family? Last chance to meet them because they are too old?
Seriously?

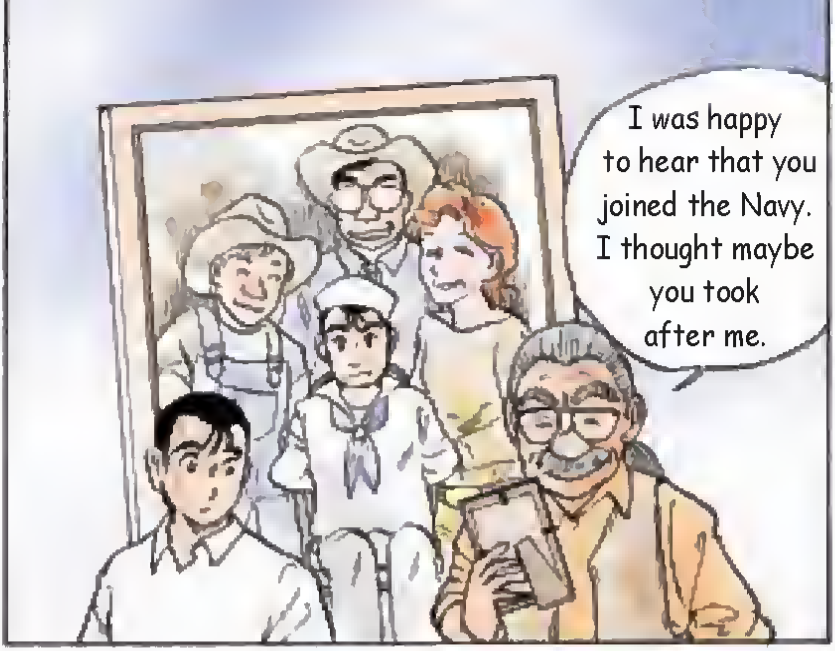
Our first grandchild, and there's a picture of you when you were born, too.
This is your parents' wedding photo.
I told your dad to at least send pictures even if he can't come home.

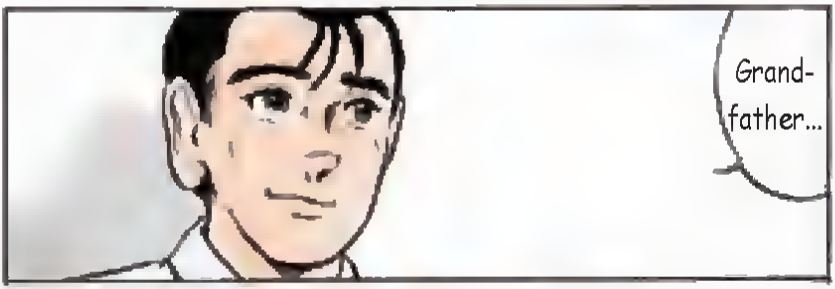

Oh!
Um ... my father told me to come see you with this watch ...

That sure brings back memories! That's the watch I gave your dad when he left Japan.
It was given to me by my father, too.
My son inherited it, and you, my grandson, seem to be the next carrier...
What do you mean?
... along with our dreams...


My son carried that watch and found his dream in the United States.
With that watch, I boarded a cargo carrier on foreign route when I was young.

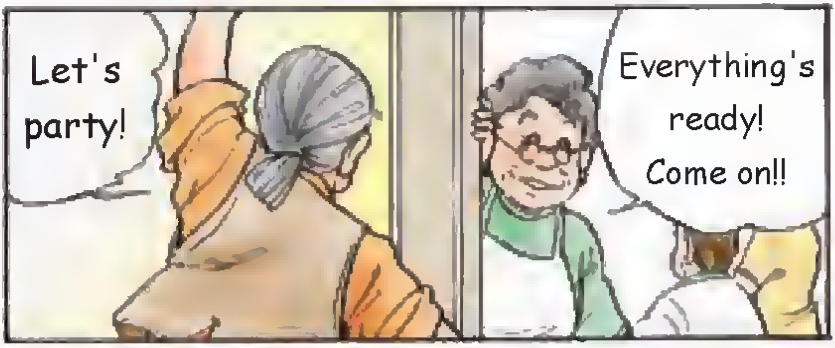
Then my grandson came to Japan with that watch ...


I was happy to hear that you joined the Navy. I thought maybe you took after me.


Grand-father...

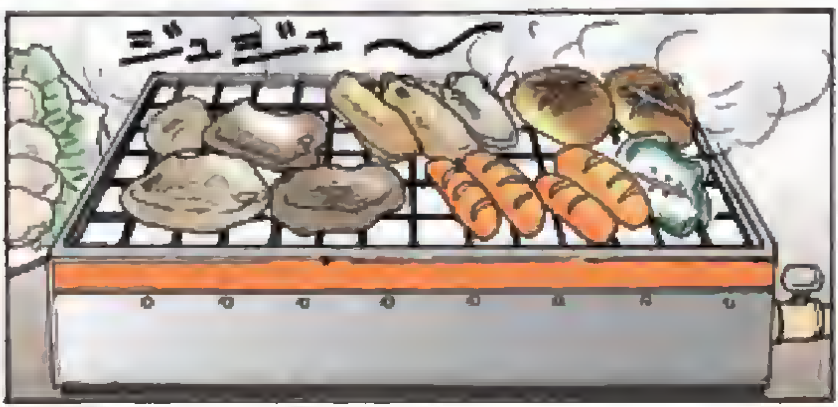
A lot has happened, but ...

Welcome, my grandchild.


Let's party!
Everything's ready! Come on!!

This is truly a Japanese cuisine.
Sushi, tempura, sashimi and grilled beef ... you've worked hard on this, Honey.

Over here, Jack!
Come on, sit down.


ジュジュ～

I'd have never imagined there would be another "steel beach picnic" in Kamakura.
But ...
But...

... now I know I have family here, too ...
Boy, am I full!

What a view, huh?
Yes.
You should come visit some time. We'll have another party like that.
Aren't you going to see my father?

If I want to, I can go anytime.
We're neighbors across the ocean, right?

USS George Washington

Builder	Newport News Shipbuilding Company
Commissioned	July 4, 1992
Unit Cost	About $4.5 billion
Propulsion	Two nuclear reactors, four shafts
Length	1,092 feet (332.85 meters)
Beam	134 feet (40.84 meters)
Flight Deck Width	252feet (76.8 meters)
Displacement	Approximately 97,000 tons
Speed	30+ knots (34.5+ miles per hour)
Crew	Ship's Company:3,200 – Air Wing:2,480
Armament	Three NATO Sea Sparrow launchers, 20mm Phalanx CIWS mounts
Aircraft	85

USS George Washington is the 6th Nimitz Class aircraft carrier, who was named after the first President of the United States, George Washington

Manga CVN73 USS George Washington

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